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HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT FROM THE ALBERT EMBANKMENT

Walker Jr

LONDON CITY SUBURBS

AS THEY ARE TO-DAY

BY

PERCY FITZGERALD

ILLUSTRATED BY

W. LUKER, JR.

FROM ORIGINAL DRAWINGS



OLD THATCHED LODGE, WOODBERRY DOWN



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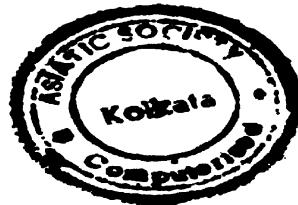
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9.1991



A MILL AT BEDDINGTON

P R E F A C E

IN the following pages will be found the result of many years' exploration of the interesting and picturesque "London City Suburbs." It is, of course, no untrodden ground; and the green lanes, and commons, and fair meads of the suburbs—near and distant—are familiar enough. But there is much that is unknown or overlooked, and too much, alas! that is being rapidly obliterated. Of such this volume offers a descriptive, as well as pictorial record.

PERCY FITZGERALD.



MANSIONS AT ALBERT GATE



HAMPTON COURT PALACE

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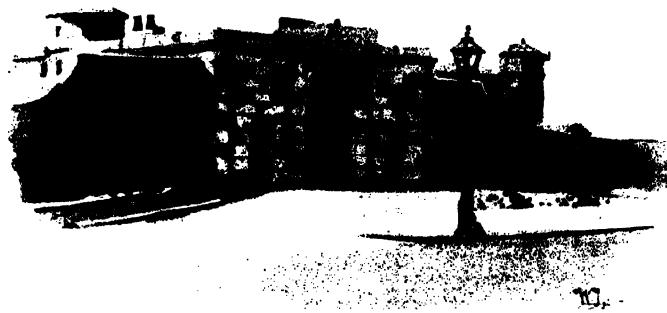
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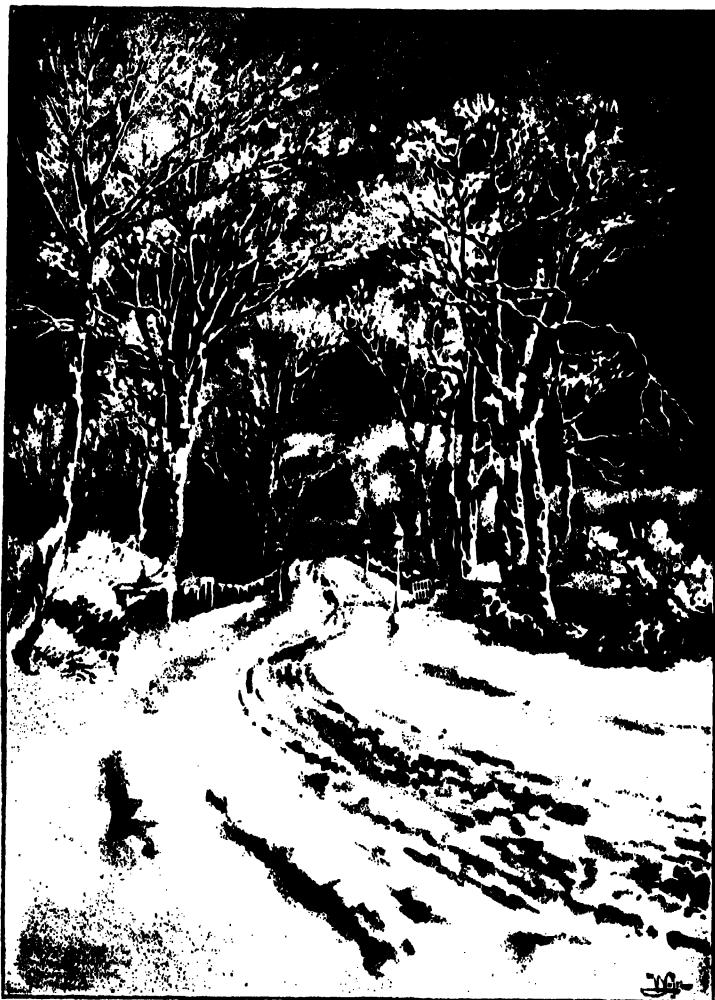
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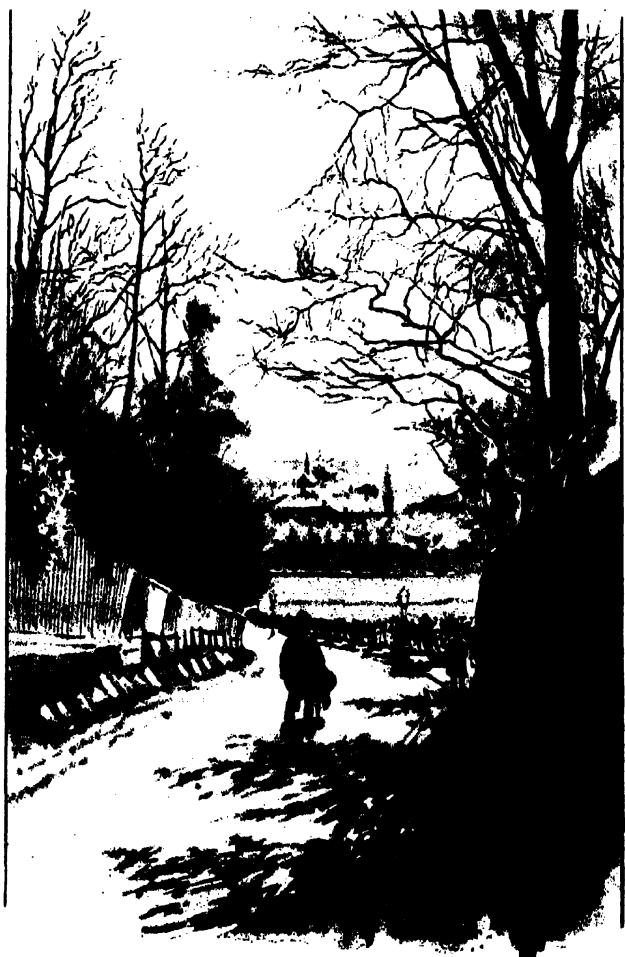
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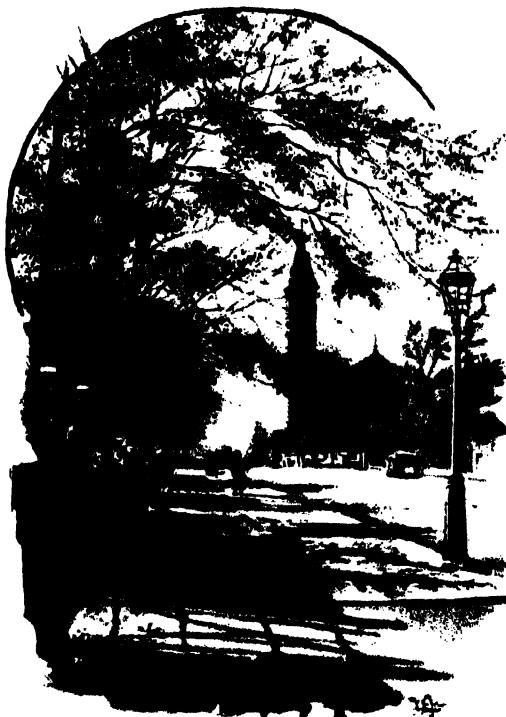
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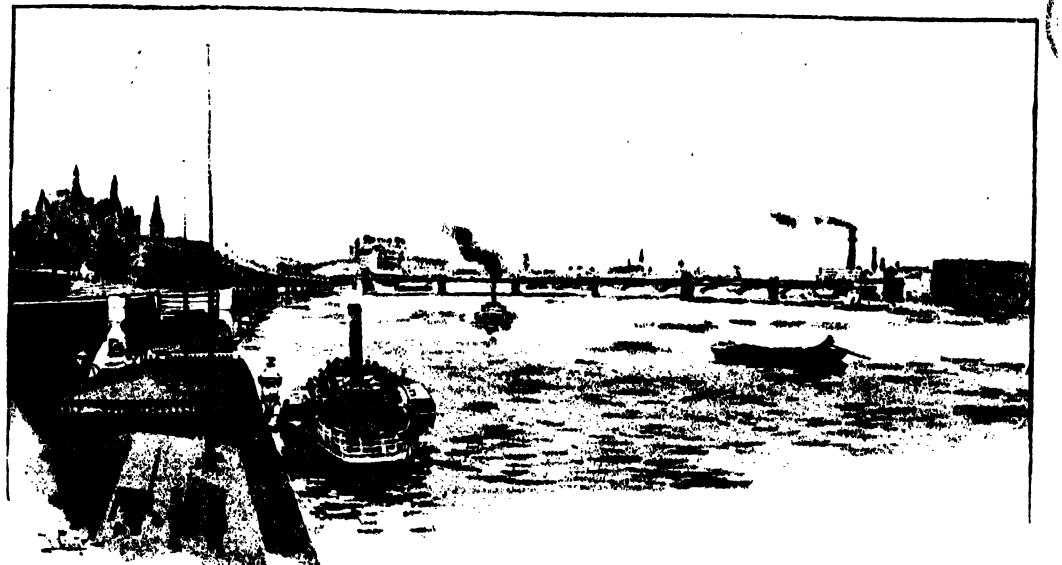
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PUTNEY BRIDGE



LOOKING TOWARDS THE CITY FROM WESTMINSTER BRIDGE

CHAPTER I

LONDON SUBURBS

Individuality of London Suburbs—Each preserves its distinct character—Modern growth and rapid absorption of the suburbs—“Travelling in London”—A score of “High Streets”—London “‘Tis sixty years since”—Westminster Bridge the true centre of London—Wordsworth’s lines.

FOR the true Londoner nothing can be so pleasing as to note the affectionate interest that is now shown in the history of his much-loved city. Within a few years there has been a general revival of interest in this fascinating subject. Artists and writers have explored unsought quarters and forgotten lanes, in search of all that is picturesque; thus lending attraction to the magazine or to some imposing tome, such as was the predecessor of the present. It would seem as if these ardent labourers were hurrying to be in time to secure some record at least of the older monuments; indeed, it is now necessary to use all convenient speed; for every day and hour almost is bringing with it its

LONDON SUBURBS

note of coming destruction, and the paragraph "Disappearing London" recurs with alarming frequency. Every old house or old church or college may be said to be under sentence; for it "cumbereth" valuable

ground. It is almost pathetic to note the fine old house in the suburbs standing in its fair gardens and lawns looking on the highroad; for it is already marked by the spoiler. Some forty or fifty years hence this rapacious greed will have wrought incalculable havoc. Business men and practical-minded persons seem to have a positive dislike to any old memorials of the kind. They would have them carted away: among the symmetrical modern structures they seem an eyesore. Soon or late, and more likely soon,



PRAED STREET, PADDINGTON

there is certain to be a combined onslaught on the City churches, whose sites are coveted for palatial City warehouses, and such pressure it will be difficult to resist. When a substantial morsel of the old Roman wall is laid open to view in digging foundations, the utmost grace accorded is a day or two's delay to allow the antiquaries to come and see it.

One of the most interesting things in the study of London is the variety, the marked distinction, between the component parts that make up the great whole. We are told of the "growth of London," of the yearly absorption of out-lying districts; but London has never become one homogeneous mass. Yet, in spite of all, it still remains "London City," with London Suburbs attached to it; and a continued familiarity prevents us observing how all these annexed districts retain marked characteristics of their own. A stranger taken for the first time through the various quarters could hardly fail to note their distinctive character. Thus Westminster, "Belgravia," Mayfair, Islington, Knightsbridge, St. John's Wood, the Regent's Park, The Boltons, the new Queen Anne district ("Cadogan Land," as we might style it) the "Borough," Paddington, Pimlico, and many more such quarters, all offer "notes" and peculiarities of their own. The more "official" suburbs, such as Chelsea and Kensington, or St. John's



TRAFAVGAR SQUARE FROM WHITEHALL

Wood, still retain, in spite of the efforts of the builder, a kind of rural air: in Buckingham Palace Road, close to Victoria Station, there is still to be seen the survival of gardens in front of the houses; while in a street within view of Sloane Square only a year or two ago were to be found the green roadside wooden palings, stunted trees, with public-house signs suspended from posts. This individuality has been not a little fostered by the erection of Town Halls, which suggest an independence, and concentrate all the local energies. A walk through the Westminster idea of municipal which tend to the local energies. quite an air of seem to be in a where some rare the natives into A walk through of Southwark Street suggests a try town. There fashioned air, gabled houses hedged in between more pretentious neighbours; while the shops have a provincial glitter. The waggons and carriers' carts are moving slowly out countrywards. The ponderous church has a rural look. Or, as we pass out of Harley Street into the Marylebone Road, what an abrupt change! We are in a suburb at once: here are villas walled round, such as Dickens's house, presenting large gardens, and a sort of "high-road," with trees, and other rural accompaniments. With this we may contrast the little "shabby-genteel" streets of Mayfair, which have their

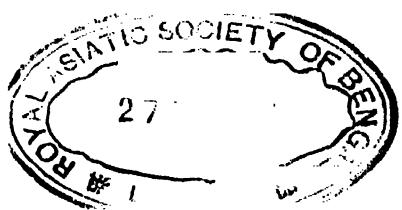


PALACE COURT, BIT OF BAYSWATER



VIEW FROM PRIMROSE HILL.

W. Luker junr.



LONDON SUBURBS



TUNELL PARK ROAD

Street, and their neighbours, where the houses have, as it were, been "run" in the one mould? There seems some fitness in the one perpetual succession of gloomy doctors' parlours and patients' rooms, where sentences of life and death are being waited for all the day long. So with the region of the great squares—Grosvenor, Berkeley, and Portman—there is a tone of solid, old-fashioned state, and every second house seems a mansion. How curious too are the feelings aroused by the Bayswater region! Here we find wastes of "compo" mansions, terraces and squares in abundance, and trees also. There is a general pretentiousness—from the uniform, stuccoed balustrades, the languid trees, and dusty foliage. "Middle-class" folk live in

psychological meaning; for a poor district promoted into fashion signifies houses on valuable sites. Dickens and Thackeray, who understood their London psychology well, have interpreted these odd concatenations. And who will say that there is not a distinct physiognomy in the dreary, chilling lines of Wimpole Street, Harley



FERNHEAD ROAD, ST. PETER'S PARK

these would-be palaces and terraces. Mixed up invariably with this affected state, we find streets, rows of flashy shops, and all the vulgar incidents of traffic, omnibuses, carts, etc. Then, turning to "Queen Anne's land" by Knightsbridge, we seem to find ourselves transported to some Dutch city: every house ruby red, each competing with its neighbour in fantastic shapes and outlines. Or we take a flight to Westminster, to that street of monstrous, beetling houses,—Victoria Street,—all chambers and offices and hotels, signifying but a temporary occupation and a flitting to the country or suburbs when the day's work is done. Or we may hurry to the modern district of South Kensington, with its palatial mansions, somewhat out of fashion and deserted, but which sprang up at a season of "inflation," when every one was, or fancied he was,

growing rich. Now it is found that small but roomy houses are "your only wear." Or we may flit to that forlorn district beyond Islington where there are rows upon rows of yellow villas, stuccoed, well smirched,

stained, and decayed, and with a spurious air of the country—villas that had seen better days, but now inex-pressibly forlorn and decayed, patched and stained.

It adds a piquancy to our London promenades to note the many survivals of the old suburban character, which are to be encountered in even the most urban districts.



VAUXHALL BRIDGE

Habit soon helps to detect readily these marks and tokens. The familiar Primrose Hill, that breezy playground, is now encompassed by streets and houses, though it commands a pleasant view of the northern heights. It is difficult to realise that in this very public place, once so secluded and free from interruptions, what was the last duel in England was fought, on a spot then known as Chalk Farm. Again, in the rather rustic-looking street Davies Street, close to Berkeley Square, we may note a gloomy, well-grimed mansion, set at an angle to the street, with a court or scrap of garden in front, Bourdon House, as it is called; it was once a part of the Old Manor House, a country seat of the opulent Davies, the lord of the soil. It therefore once stood on the country road; and here are Farm Street and Hill Street close by. The Jesuit church has for forty years and more stood in what is literally a stable lane, or mews, rudely paved.

A quaintly-minded Londoner seeking to appreciate better his loved city once conceived the idea, old established resident as he was, of *travelling* through London, and of sojourning in the different quarters so as to participate in their tone and flavour. With this view he first put up at



CLOCK TOWER, HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

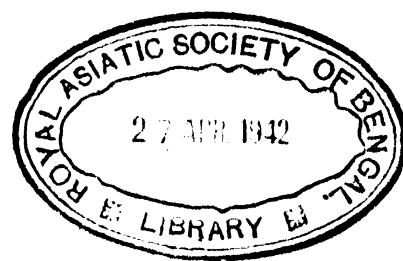
the vast . foreign-looking hotel on the Embankment, from whose window as he rose in the morning he could see the whole river life: the barges moving languidly by, the flitting steamers. Thence he moved on to the huge Midland Hotel at St. Pancras, a little city in itself, full of animation and life, situated high in the air, in a sort of Islington bustle; and whence he saw London, through the eyes, as it were, of innumerable northerners who had come to town. What a bustle from converging tram lines! what a fine air, and splendid views of the heights of Hampstead and Highgate and the country generally! Thence he passed to the Great Western Hotel at Paddington, where he found a world of another complexion; the tame yellow houses of Westbourne and other terraces being close by, with a curious general stagnation: these side by side with a "huckstering" neighbourhood, streets and shops of a poorish sort. Later he sat him down at one of the curious hostceries in Charterhouse Square, where he seemed to be in an ancient country town, or in one of those inns of fiction where say Mr. Squeers



GIPSY ROAD, LOWER NORWOOD



HIGHGATE FROM PARLIAMENT HILL



might have alighted. There were other houses of which he made trial, such as the Arundel, the resort of country sight-seers, and where he lived, as it were, close to the roar of the Strand. He may have found the most original experience of all at the Covent Garden Hotel, situated in the market, and finally at the great "Metropole" hard by Trafalgar Square. No one who had not enjoyed these experiences, he protested, could have any idea of what the great city really was. Yet the unobservant resident who has known his London for a life will take little note of these dramatic differences.

The growth and absorption of territory has been as sudden as it is rapid. There is many an "old inhabitant" whose father must have "minded the time" when London was a huge detached city, the country coming up to its gates; it is only within average living memory that almost every rural outlet has been closed up by buildings. Towards the end of last century the Duke of Bedford's great mansion, which filled



IN BATTERSEA PARK

the northern side of Bloomsbury Square, had a clear uninterrupted view of Hampstead and Highgate. The open country too came up close by Portland Road and all the district round. "The Foundling" hard by, when built lay really in the country. It is more astonishing to think that there must be people now alive who recall the time when the Regent's Park was a waste of pasture land, and its terraces were not.

A significant proof of the gradual absorption by London City of all adjoining suburbs is found in the number of "High Streets" which we find in all quarters of the city: such for instance as High Street, Marylebone. This was, of course, the main and chief street in each suburb. There are, indeed, over a score of streets so named. But, as has been often said, a sort of history of London could be roughly evolved from the very names of its streets.

An idea of how tremendous is this ever-growing, ever-absorbing London may be conceived from some figures which are of a startling kind. It contains some five millions of inhabitants, increased every year by over fifty thousand souls. The value of its houses, property, etc., is rated at some thirty millions of pounds annually, and its trade, import and export, at two hundred millions. Nearly seven hundred thousand houses and buildings are spread over some seven hundred

square miles, and there are—and this is truly astonishing—three thousand miles of streets. Four millions of sheep and nine millions of poultry and game are consumed in the year!

A casual glance at the map issued "tis sixty years since"—not a very great stretch backwards—shows us how this



BELGRAVE SQUARE

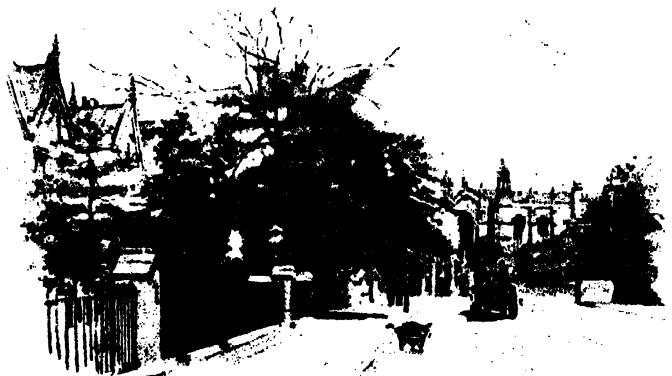


A HOUSE IN BEDFORD PARK

Towns. Islington, Pentonville, Hackney, Bethnal Green, were each crossed by a road or street, while Paddington and Bayswater offered stretches of territory with but few houses and fewer streets.

London City, like British rule in India, has drawn all. But it is the southern side of the river that offers the most extraordinary contrast to what it presents in our time. In 1833 the only portion that was laid out in streets and houses and might be considered "town" was the portion comprised within the curve of the river, and bounded by a line drawn from Lambeth Palace by Newington, and ending at Bermondsey. Outside this "pale," as we might call it, all lay open. Beginning where Battersea Park now is, we find a great waste, formerly known as Batter-

great London has expanded with leaps and bounds, as it were. Then, Brompton, Chelsea, Pimlico, and Knightsbridge, were comparatively uncovered by streets; Kennington, Vauxhall, and Southwark, were open to Deptford. Poplar, or the Isle of Dogs, was a comparative blank; so were Bethnal Green, Hackney, Islington, Camden and Kentish



ADDISON ROAD, KENSINGTON



IN THE BROADWAY, HAMMERSMITH

sea Fields, where "the Duke" fought a political duel without being interrupted, and whither he rode out as to the country. We pass by "Nine Elms," leaving the Vauxhall gardens on our left. Between the gardens and Lambeth Palace was an open tract, which spread away to Newington Butts and Kennington, whose "common" was then unenclosed. Another tract, comprising Walworth and Rotherhithe, led on to Deptford and Greenwich. It is extraordinary to contrast with this the densely populated streets that in a short space of time have since spread over these regions. Again, the abolition or destruction of Brompton, its fair grounds, villas, and market gardens, with the creation of the new Kensingtons, dates only from the Exhibition year, 1851. To the Crystal Palace we owe the creation of the great Norwood and Sydenham districts; while "Belgravia," with its streets and fine squares, was laid out within living memory, as well as the newer and less aristocratic district that stretches from Buckingham Palace Road down to the



THE BROOK, BARNES COMMON



river. Russell Square, once sacred to lawyers, was laid out so recently as 1804, which shows how rapid has been the growth of the great city. The picturesque little Queen Square in Bloomsbury, which has its side to the north uncovered by houses, testifies significantly to this vicinity of the country; for the space was purposely left vacant so that, as an old writer says, the denizens of the square might command a full view of the "beautiful landscape" and the northern heights. And Mr. Wheatley tells us that in certain streets of this district the northern side is a story or two lower, so as not to interrupt their opposite neighbours' view.

We could imagine nothing more interesting than a series of these comparative maps on the same scale, showing the gradual increase of London territory. One of only thirty or forty years ago set beside one of the present day would excite almost as much astonishment as the old one of Aggas put beside a great railway map of to-day.



COX'S AVENUE, SYDENHAM

One of the best topographical pictures of the London suburbs over one hundred years ago is Dodsley's account, which is welcome for its natural, unaffected style, and the tone of admiring awe with which the wonders of the town are depicted.

Were we to impress a stranger with an idea of the grandeur and splendour of this London of ours, we should lead him—not to the heart of the City, or to the Bank, Charing Cross, Fleet Street, or to Rotten Row, or to the "Church Parade" in Hyde Park of a Sunday morning—we should place him at the middle of Westminster Bridge with his face to St. Paul's. There he would see the long line of gigantic buildings stretching away on the left like palaces; the new red police office; the Whitehall Terrace, with Somerset House beyond; the huge hotels; the great Embankment below, with its richly verdant belt of plane trees; the light and not unpleasing railway bridge; the noble Waterloo Bridge, worthy of old Rome; the other bridges beyond; St. Paul's and the City spires in the distance; while below are the ever-flitting steamboats, the barges, following the majestic bends of the great river. Then we turn and see just behind us the luxuriantly Gothic pile of the Houses of Parliament, with the terraces and pinnacles; the scattered, cheerful-

looking buildings of the great hospital on the other side of the river; while to our right are the converging streets at Palace Yard,—one of the busiest quarters of London,—with the fine Clock Tower, and a glimpse of the Park beyond. All this combination suggests an idea of power,



HAM STREET, HAM



APSLEY HOUSE,
HYDE PARK CORNER

Mc.

traffic, and magnificence that no other city can furnish. This dramatic scene is likely to escape many who are too engrossed to pause on their way, and who hurry across the bridge in pursuit of their business. And all has been but the growth of the last twenty or thirty years. It is curious to contrast with this bustling

picture the reflections of the great poet who stood on the older bridge years ago, and expressed his feelings in a famous sonnet :

Earth hath not anything to show more fair,
The city now doth like a garment wear
The beauty of the morning : silent, bare,
Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie
Open unto the fields, and to the sky ;
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.

A tranquil, almost rural scene. At that time—well-nigh a century ago—the busiest portion of the river was beyond London Bridge, where, in the once proverbial phrase, “the forest of masts” was to be seen. “Forest of funnels” is now more appropriate; the masts have retreated to the innumerable docks. Wordsworth then saw but a sedgy foreshore, lined with shanties, sheds, and small warehouses : there too stood Inigo Jones’s



THE WANDLE, WANDSWORTH

Mc.

Water Gate at the edge of the water, washed by the stream; and the terrace or "mall" which then touched the river. No suspension or railway bridge was at Hungerford Stairs. The Adelphi Terrace, then new and conspicuous, was admired as a sort of monumental structure, and there was no fringe of vast buildings between the river and the shadowy outlines of St. Paul's.



TWICKENHAM



NOTTING HILL SQUARE

CHAPTER II

LONDON INNER SUBURBS

Promenade by Pall Mall and Piccadilly—The two Palaces—The Albany—An oasis in Audley Street—London gradually rebuilt—The so-called “Queen Anne” style—London squares—“Cadogan Land”—Suburbs of Knightsbridge and Brompton.

IN our promenade we shall first wander through the familiar districts of St. James's, Piccadilly, Mayfair, Portland Place, and Regent's Park, in which, fanciful as it may seem, may be traced many notes and touches of a suburban character which have never been effaced. These might be called the inner London suburbs. London owes much to its parks—not in their capacity of “lungs,” but because such welcome spaces have effectually prevented that close crowding of streets and houses. But for the Green Park and St. James's Park, we can well fancy what a mass of

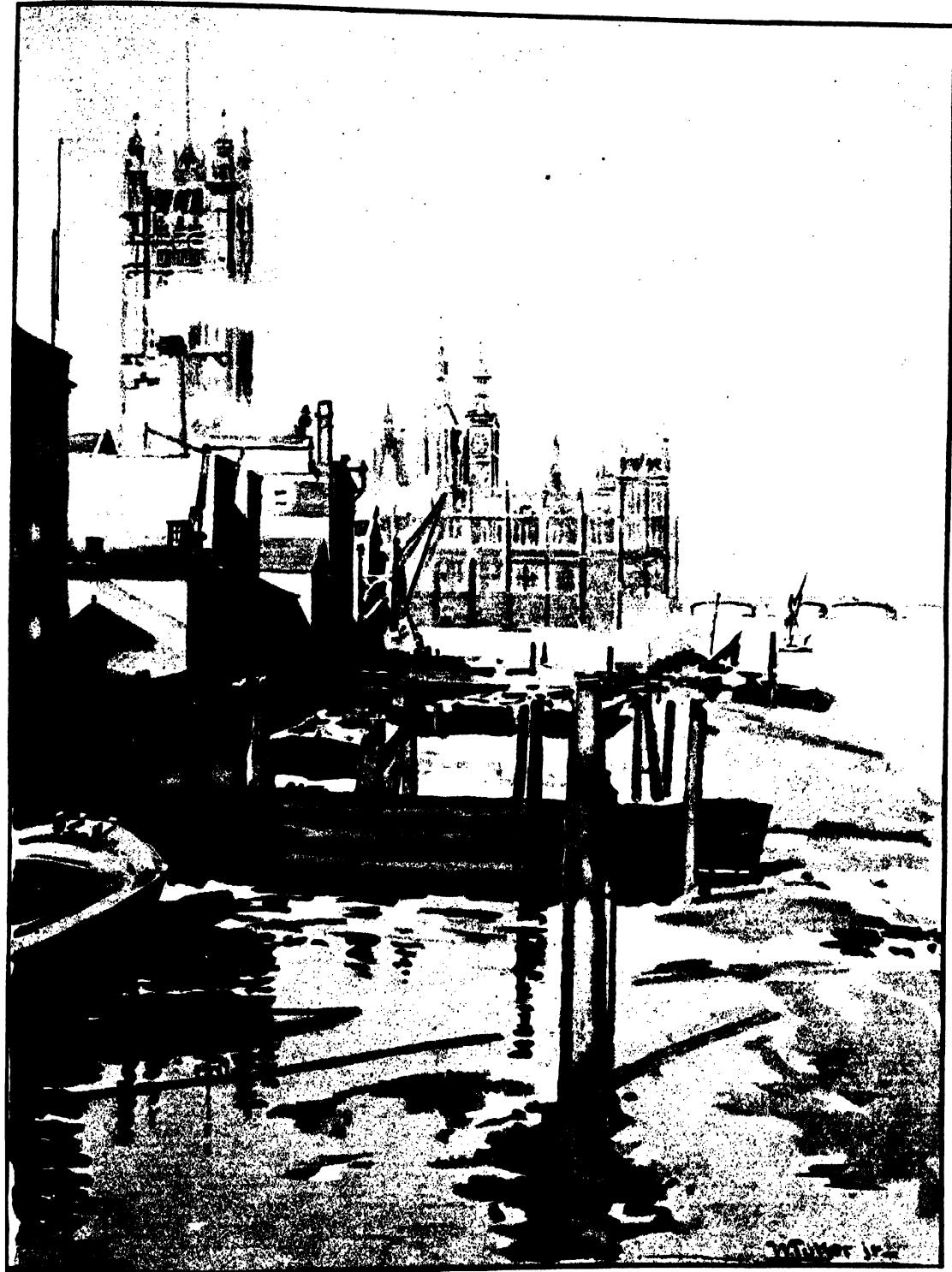
buildings, and greater mass of inhabitants, would have cumbered the ground. Returning thence, we shall visit the northern suburbs—within about ten miles of London; after these the southern suburbs; finally follow the course of the river to Kingston, by Kew, Richmond, and Hampton Court.

The imposing pile of the Houses of Parliament is said to be the largest Gothic building in existence. Many now alive can recall the great conflagration of the old Houses, which occurred in 1834, nearly sixty years ago. Interesting as it was on account of its traditions, it was so clumsy and inconvenient a building that it must, sooner or later,

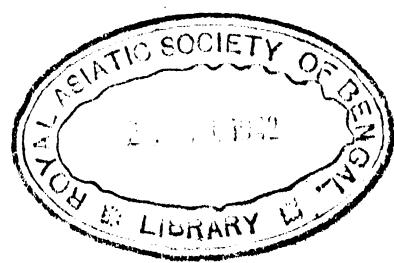
have been swept away. The old house where the Speaker lived was then a high-roofed, château sort of building, something like the Deanery of St. Paul's. The New Palace displays some blemishes, owing to fits of economy on the part of the Government. The towers have been cut short, the design for enclosing the palace yards has been set aside, and the proportions of the interior spoiled by lowering the ceilings. It has been thought that the terrace by the river ought to have been raised to the level of the bridge,



WESTMINSTER ABBEY



HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT FROM LAMBETH BRIDGE





CADOGAN SQUARE

in England. Indeed, a day might be profitably spent in exploring the four striking buildings that are found together here: the Abbey, St. Margaret's Church, and the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Hall.

We need not pause to describe the Abbey, which is so familiar to every Londoner. The recently completed *façade* of the transept is an effective piece of restoration, though critical eyes will detect a sort of discordance between the lower and upper tiers; the first, which was Sir G. Scott's design, being more elaborate than Mr. Pearson's. In the purlieus of Westminster there is much to interest the explorer: the Dean's

which would have supplied a very imposing effect. It took nearly twenty years to build this pile—a surprisingly short time, considering the elaborate character of the details, which were worked out with infinite fancy and skill by the late Augustus Pugin.

The pleasing St. Margaret's Church is stored with interesting monuments of all kinds; the great stained-glass window, which has been the subject of a romantic series of adventures and hairbreadth 'scapes, is considered the finest and richest piece of painted glass



GREAT COLLEGE STREET, WESTMINSTER

Yard, Westminster School, Ashburton House, the gardens, cloisters, and the retired College Street, where are the old-fashioned residences of some canons. Few who pass by Westminster Hall recall the fact that Cromwell's head and that of General Ireton were impaled on one of the gables! At this moment

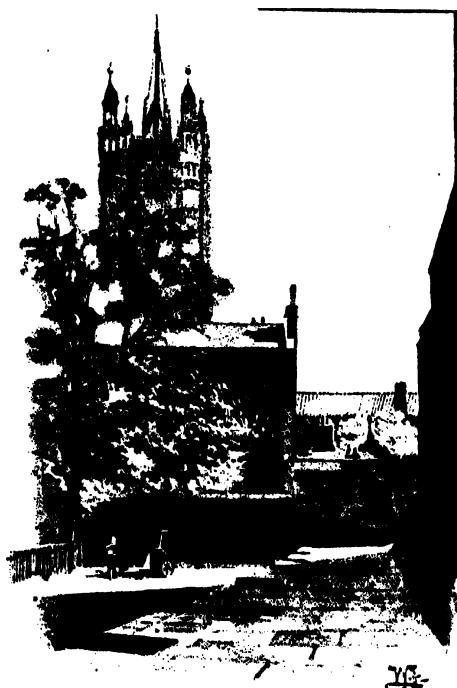
the head is actually in existence, in the possession of a Yorkshire family, and was exhibited in the last century at "Cox's Museum." ("Her eye," said Sir Anthony Absolute, "shall roll like the bull's in

Cox's Museum"—an odd association.) Passing by Downing Street, which took its name from a forgotten *Mr. Downing*, we pass by Charing Cross and Pall Mall, or "clubland," where, on the ground where now stand Carlton Terrace and the United Service Club, was to be seen within living memory that most costly of palaces Carlton House, whose columns have been worked into the portico of the National Gallery.

St. James's Street might fairly furnish forth a history of its own—a tale of old clubs and older mansions. Nor is it unpicturesque, with its descent to the



SPENCER HOUSE, EAST SIDE OF GREEN PARK



IN DEAN'S YARD, WESTMINSTER

venerable Palace below. Brooke's, White's, Arthur's, the Thatched House, where are still kept the records of Johnson's Club—all offer suggestive memories. At this moment Willis's Rooms, the old Almack's, in King Street, is being pulled down or pulled to pieces to be fashioned into offices. The ghosts of Lady Jersey and Madame de Lieven will surely "walk" and trouble the new tenants.

The old palace at the bottom of St. James's Street, with its rusted gate, tower, and *friendly* clock—the true Londoner will appreciate the word—has a certain picturesqueness: even that glimpse of the colonnade within the court. But the chambers within are gloomy, deserted, with their dingy gilding and faded colouring. The interest in the closing scene of Charles I.'s life appears to be altogether associated with Whitehall, and the fatal window through which he stepped to execution; but he spent his last night in one of these chambers at St. James's, and here too the pathetic parting with his family took place. His son Charles II. was born here.

The Mall in St. James's Park has the air of having been originally an avenue that led to the Palace, or "Queen's House," as it was called in the last century,



ST. JAMES'S STREET, PALL MALL

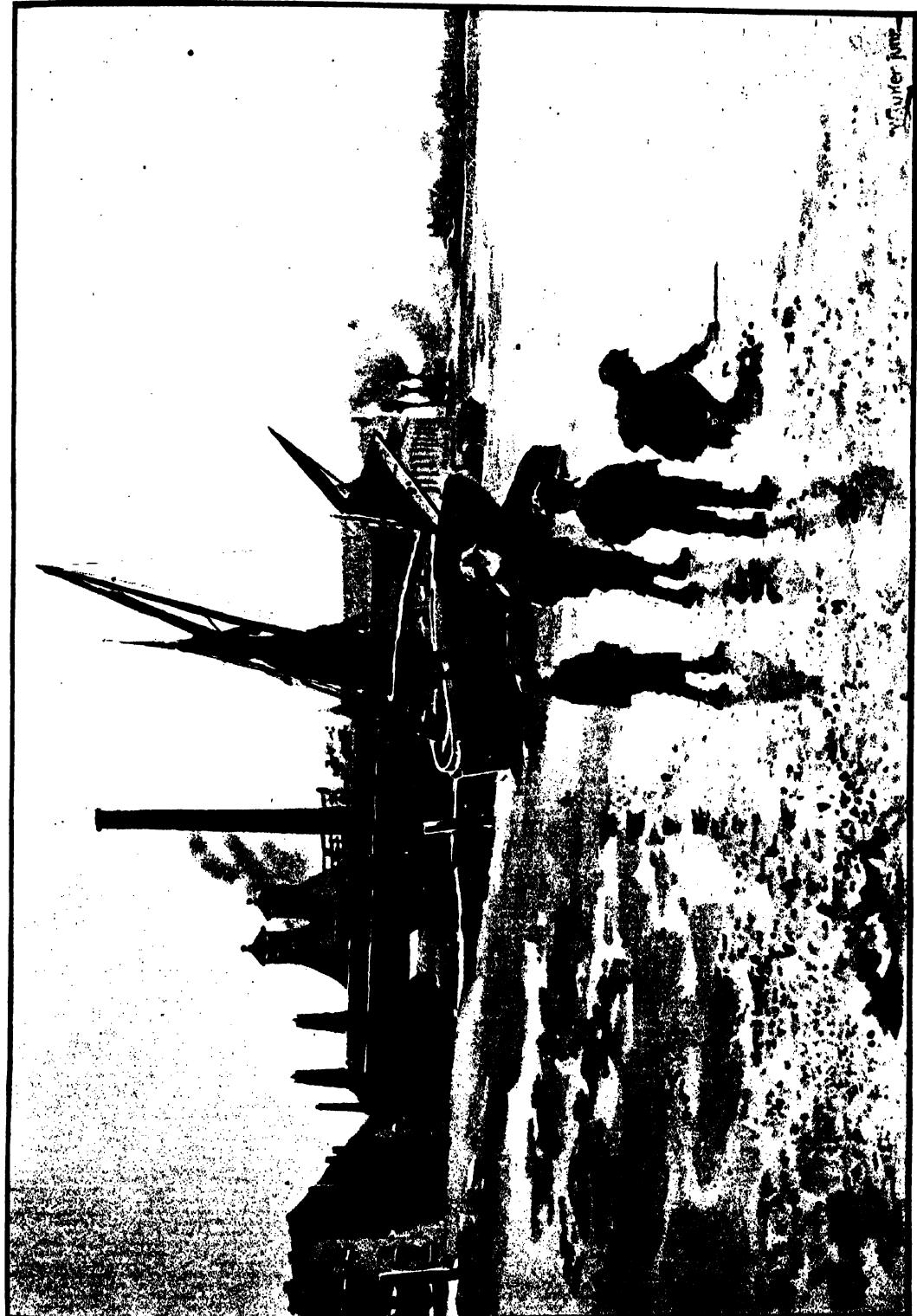
and which was in the country. Indeed the former ducal owner speaks with delight of the two avenues which led to his new mansion. There is an old print depicting that worthy and excellent family-man King George III. promenading with his five handsome daughters in the Mall just as he did on "the Terrace" at Windsor. The trees are shown there as tall and umbrageous, unlike the present languishing growth. Of a the Mall offers a animation, from soldiers, the tors, and the long in which sit dames and their rich gala dress, be, and tolerating ous faces clustered dows "flattening against the panes. at all resent this

Buckingham unlucky specimen building. There alive who recall the old Buckingham House, an old-fashioned red brick structure of the Marlborough House pattern. The new palace was one of George IV.'s many hobbies, and ingulphed enormous sums. From the first it was a failure. The stone is so bad that unless covered by thick coats of paint the whole wòuld become a ruin. When Her Majesty came to the throne it was found to be almost uninhabitable; the kitchen and servants' quarters were close to the Royal apartments. There was no nursery: an essential matter



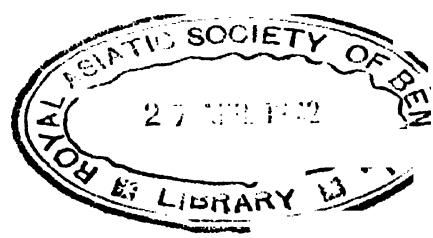
drawing-room day scene of brilliant the music and crowds of spectafiles of carriages, patiently the fair daughters in their shivering, it may the crowd of curi at their very win their noses" a

The fair do not flattering curiosity. Palace is but an of royal castle- may be some still

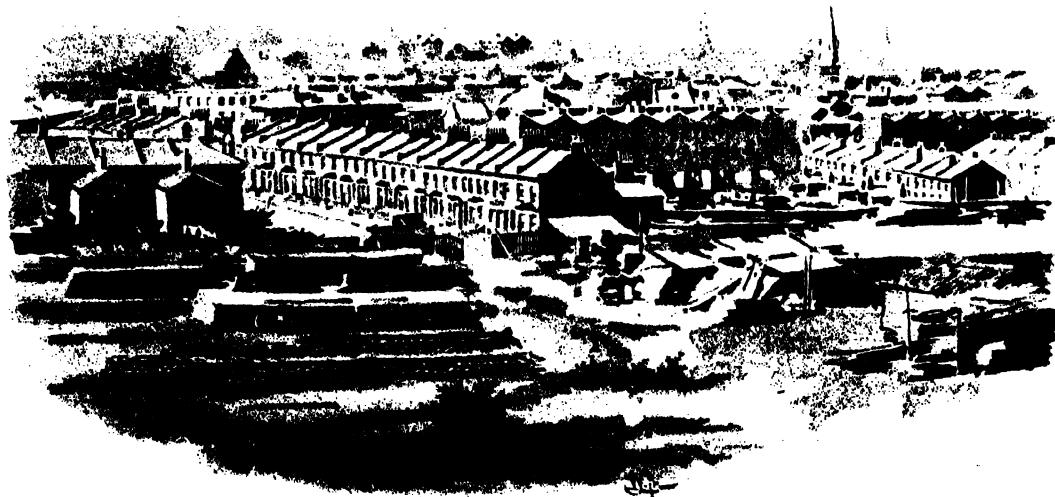


MORTLAKE AT LOW TIDE—EVENING

W. G. Hunter June



at the moment. It required a sum of £150,000 to put the place in order, and to supply the additions. It is well-nigh forgotten now that the Marble Arch once stood here, and was the entrance to the palace: a more appropriate site than its present one, as it formed part of an architectural group. The arch has a little history. It was intended to be erected, as it were, *Aux gloires de Georges le Grand*, and an



VIEW FROM TELEGRAPH HILL

equestrian statue of the monarch was to have been placed on the top. This, somewhat altered, found its way to Trafalgar Square—a good specimen of the wild uncertainties and caprices of officialism. The arch cost £31,000, which was certainly cheap, and the florid iron gates £3000, which seems dear.

The palace contains a gallery of pictures, comprising no less than seven Rembrandts, seven Rubenses, six Vandykes, nine Cuyps, three

Sir Joshuas, besides specimens of many great masters. The public, alas! is not privileged to see these treasures. In the great stables are maintained nearly sixty of the "state" horses, which include the famous "creams"—those strange ponderous animals which we see betimes taken out for their exercise: the carriages stored here, including the various state coaches, are about seventy in number.

Few would suppose that the gardens cover forty acres of ground. There is a raised terrace at the back of the palace which commands a full view of the whole; and, by some odd dispensation, "the Boundary Stone" of St.-Martin's-in-the-Fields is placed here, and on Maunday Thursday the so-called *Beaters of the Bounds* are admitted to strike the stone. Here too is the pavilion which Eastlake, Landseer, Maclise, and a number of other artists, were engaged to paint in fresco, but whose work has since mouldered away from damp and neglect. Will the day ever arrive when these fair gardens will be surrounded with an open gilt-topped railing, like the Tuileries Garden, and the lieges be admitted to walk? There is also a sheet of water, and bosquets *galore*.

Another more bustling route leads us on in the direction of the Pimlico suburbs, through the busy and noisy Piccadilly. On the

right is a retired courtyard, the once fashionable Albany, where Byron, "Monk" Lewis, Canning, and other men of *ton* had rooms. We can trace here a nobleman's stately mansion, with wings and courtyard in front, and a spacious garden spreading away behind, now nearly covered with buildings. It belonged to Lord Holland,



PORTMAN SQUARE

who disposed of it to Lord Melbourne, who, in his turn, exchanged it with the Duke of York and Albany for the porticoed mansion next the Horse Guards, Dover House, now the Scotch Office. In 1808, however, the Duke seems to have grown tired of his new toy, and it was turned by some speculator to its present use. With all tenants it was stipulated that "no trade or profession" was to be carried on, as such would interfere with the "gentility" of the place. There is something quaint and pleasing about the enclosure, especially at the entrance from Vigo Street, where there is a glimpse of the long avenue through the old gardens. As we thus *flâner* it, we do not pause to note the old familiar objects whose history has been described in hundreds of books, but only such matters as are scarcely known, and are, as it were, topographical *curios*.

Close by is another fragment of patrician state converted to commercial uses, viz. the Burlington Arcade. This was a slice of the adjoining gardens of Burlington House, and was erected so lately as the year 1819. The success of the Albany no doubt suggested the scheme, and it was said in 1849 that the Cavendish family enjoyed rent from the venture to the amount of £4000. But the rent actually received from underleases, etc., is more than double. A favourite "typical" allusion with London jesters used to be "the Beadle of the Burlington," who was arrayed in the traditional uniform, cocked hat, etc., which has long since disappeared.

The row of houses which look into the Green Park belong mostly to per-



OLD BURYING-GROUND, SOUTH AUDLEY STREET

sonages of high rank and position: Lord Salisbury, Lord Spencer, Lord Ellesmere, and others. Spencer House has the most character, with its statues, pediment, and pillars, and offers this oddity that the front and back were designed by different architects. Few passers-by suspect that in Bridgewater House lies *perdu* one of the finest private collections of pictures. It is often forgotten too that in London there is quite a number of these galleries from which the public are rather ungraciously excluded, in striking contrast to the courtesies extended in Italy and Holland, where such collections are thrown open to the visitor or connoisseur. The Duke of Westminster, however, occasionally opens his fine gallery to the crowd.

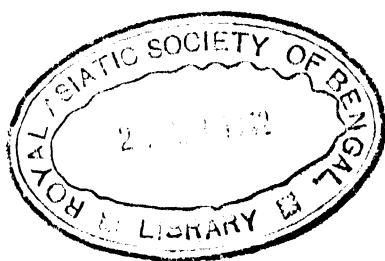
Curzon Street, Mayfair, still retains some "notes" of a suburban character, in the shape of Lord Howe's charming Italian-looking villa,—for such it is,—which has become gradually enclosed by houses, but has its gardens and grounds in front. This has perhaps escaped the notice of many an incurious passer-by. This street has some interesting



LORD HOLLAND'S LANE, HOLLAND PARK



HOGSMILL RIVER, MALDEN



associations. It was here that the Berry sisters lived and died; and it was at No. 19, the house to which he had retired after his fall, that Lord Beaconsfield expired. In Chesterfield Street, close by, the writer has often spent an hour with the brilliant Caroline Norton, who lived at No. 3.

A history of noblemen's mansions in London might be an interesting one. The story of Chesterfield House in particular would be well worth recounting; it has had, however, a disastrous fate, and has been sacrificed to the greed of building. The same fate, we may fairly prophesy, awaits many a stately edifice. This building, with its court and elegant colonnade in front and its spacious gardens behind, was a pleasing object, and always called up memories of its famous owner. However, some twenty years ago it was sold to Mr. Magniac for £175,000, who covered its fair gardens with family mansions and stables, and, to utilise valuable space, set the colonnade at right angles to the houses.

There are stories and traditions as to the rapacity of the great ground landlords, of the terms they make for renewing leases, etc. In



HERBERT CRESCENT, BROMPTON

this favoured quarter, the Westminster Estate, where streets seem paved with gold, many a genteel house is now being levelled, to give place to mansions and "palatial" edifices—terra-cotta and brick is your only wear, and motley enough it is. Some of the improvements we can be grateful for. Yet few would imagine what charming old retreats and oases are to be lighted on in the most unexpected quarters, even in so unpoetical a region as this. Close by the church in South Audley Street will be noted a gateway, and the wanderer who strays in will find himself, to his surprise, in an inviting old *plaisance*, the grass richly green, with antique walks and venerable umbrageous trees. Here was the old burying-ground, which straggles away in irregular shape to its other entrance lately contrived in Mount Street, whose houses look into it, and which, by the care of the improvers of the Westminster Estate, have been treated artistically and in harmony. The fine Gothic window and gable end of the Jesuit church look into it also, and here the contemplative (of either sex) can promenade and find almost a solitude. It is really a most inviting and rather original place, having quite a foreign tone.

In the lane, complimentarily styled as "Farm Street," but which is really a "mews," stands the church, to which are attached a garden, a church-house, and other dependencies. The altar, altar rails, and pulpit display the exquisite touch of the elder Pugin. The mixture of tints in the sanctuary, the rich blending of stained glass,



GROSVENOR SQUARE

marbles, gilding, carvings, are harmonised together by time. In no other church in London is the dim, religious light attained to in such perfection. The church is designed in that pure and correct style which was in vogue some forty years ago. Not very far away, on the other side of Oxford Street, is found Spanish Place new church, a very imposing specimen of the modern cathedral. This, with the well-known Oratory, the exquisite Ely Chapel, and that of the Carmelites at Kensington, is the most striking of the London Catholic Churches. There are indeed but few churches of other denominations that can be put beside them for richness and splendour.

Here is being built a terra-cotta town, and in front of the Mount Street entrance there is now rising a kind of crescent which will be effective. This is a portion of the grand transformation which is now going on in nearly all quarters of London. It is interesting to inquire whether any really new style has been introduced, or whether it has any artistic merits such as will enlist the admiration of future generations. Some hold that an actual original style has been discovered; others that this very heterogeneous and irregular character in itself constitutes a style.

This formal rebuilding of London may be said to have set in seriously some forty years ago, at the close of the Exhibition of 1851 when the great tract about Cromwell Road was laid out and covered with terraces and houses. At this time, also, were introduced what were called "gardens" as being more modest and less pretentious than the regular "square." These vast Kensington houses are now found too costly to maintain, except for persons of large means. The lavish use of



THE ROOKERY IN THE UXBRIDGE ROAD AT EAL



OLD HOUSES AT CLAPHAM COMMON, NORTH SIDE

“compo” or plaster to hide the shabby brick underneath was inherited from Nash and the glories of Regent Street. By and by a curious change occurred, possibly owing to the teaching of Mr. Ruskin and his disciples—when the “compo” was wholly discarded—and it became the fashion to adopt stone for large buildings; while good red brick served for private houses. The Langham Hotel was, I fancy, the last gigantic building that was constructed of brick after the old methods and pattern; and the Foreign Office the first of any magnitude that was built of stone. Now we see in every direction huge buildings, clubs, shops, hotels, “mansions,” music halls even, constructed of stone; and thus the face of London is becoming altogether altered. Within the last few years, too, since the adoption of “lifts,” it has been found that there can be no objection to living in the most aerial stories of a house; hence buildings on even a small plot of ground are reared to enormous heights and the accommodation is doubled and even quadrupled. This last change will, ere long, have enormous influence on the general aspect of London, and these beetling premises, rising everywhere, are caus-

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IN THE LOWER RICHMOND ROAD, PUTNEY



VIEW FROM HARROW CHURCHYARD





BLOOMSBURY SQUARE

which unless checked will interfere with light and air. This pressure seems a violation of the rights of the proprietor. The damage, moreover, seems too remote and fanciful. It will be recollected that, in the case of the enormous pile of "flats" at Albert Gate, the Commissioner of Works interfered in a rather arbitrary fashion and threatened to rear a wall in the park that would shut out the view! The system of living in "flats" has now become the rage. Yet it is admitted that, save in the very loftiest floors, there is little gain in economy; for though the taxes are not paid by the tenant, this can only be a fiction, as they are included in the rent. The real gain would appear to be in convenience and handiness—the rooms being *en suite*, and under better control. The large waste of

ing anxiety to the professors of hygiene as well as to lovers of artistic effect. Legislative measures are called for: it is urged that in some foreign countries some sort of proportion is enforced between the width of the street and the height of its houses,



BERKELEY SQUARE



FOUNTAIN IN PARK LANE

stairs, lobbies, etc., which occupy so much space and attention in a house, is here spared, but access has to be paid for at the tenant's charge. With this has sprung up the sort of American system of the combined hotel and "mansions," the inmates "boarding" in a common room. This seems to be coming into favour. The earliest and most gigantic of these vast enterprises was the Queen Anne's Mansions at Queen Anne's Gate, an enormous pile of brick, containing about a thousand chambers. We are pretty familiar with it now: to a stranger, however, it must be an astonishing

spectacle. We, however, tremble as we gaze at it, for who can help thinking what would be the fate of the "mansioners" in case of fire? There are several of these "Babels"; such as the Whitehall Mansions—an imposing pile that looks upon the Embankment Gardens—and the enormous block at Albert Gate before alluded to. For the choicest apartments as much and often more is asked than would be asked for a mansion in Belgravia. Whether this fashion will continue, or is only a "fad" or whim, it is difficult to decide.

Another extraordinary change in the face of London which has occurred almost simultaneously is the taste for red brick houses of bizarre and fantastic pattern, terraces and rows of which are springing up in all directions. These are strangely dubbed "*Queen Anne houses*" as though they were adopted from a pattern known in her reign. The style cannot be considered Dutch, as both types were noted for a correct simplicity and solidity well suited to the material. The merit and also

the effect of brickwork are due to its smooth unbroken surface, the only security against decay; as carvings and low relief invite the lodgment of wet and dirt and speedily moulder away. The aim of brickwork and good cement is to form out of innumerable particles one homogeneous mass. All pinnacles, gables, "hutches," and such fantastic vagaries are opposed to this law, and are certain to disintegrate. As the mortar must dry up and weaken, the pinnacles become like a child's house, a number of blocks laid upon one another. In the genuine "Queen Anne's" or Georgian house the carvings of the gables and doorways were of wood, and, though there was some decorative moulding, this was very delicate and scarcely varied or disturbed the surface. Of this new style there are some elaborate specimens of terra-cotta and brick blended to be found in the new Cadogan Square.

About fifteen years ago there was in high favour a place of social entertainment lying behind Sloane Street, and known as "Prince's Club." It covered many acres of ground and was used for "roller skating," as it was called. This pastime has altogether disappeared, and with it the "rinks" that had sprung up in every town, great and small. Some years later a company of builders purchased the property and laid it out in streets and gardens. Here, I think, was the first serious attempt at "Queen Anne" building on a great scale. As the architects grew bolder and more accustomed to the style, their efforts became more and more fantastic, and they literally rioted in gables and peaks and pinnacles. It must be admitted,



KENSINGTON PALACE GARDENS

however, that there are signs of improvement, and that architects are now beginning to introduce a purer and more correct style.

Behind Sloane Street we find what will, when rebuilt, be one of the most pleasing and picturesque enclosures in London, viz. Hans Place. The old Hans Place was a retired, sequestered little retreat; piquant enough from its solitude and air of old fashion and its effective little

houses. The design, too, a sort of octagon, was well proportioned and rather original. No wonder the seclusion and dull calm of this sleepy little enclosure were found to have their attractions. No fewer than five interesting "literary" ladies lived in the "dull calm" of this retreat. The course of four was unfortunate or clouded. Here, at No. 25, lived the gifted "L. E. L.," whose untimely fate is well known; the brilliant but half-distraught Lady Caroline Lamb, the author of *Glenarvon*; the no less eccentric Lady Lytton Bulwer, author of many clever and spirited stories in which she sketched her husband; and Miss Mitford, whose domestic life was



ADBROKE GROVE, AND ST. JOHN'S CHURCH,
NOTTING HILL.

troubled by an erratic and improvident father. Here lived also Mrs. S. C. Hall, the writer of many admirable Irish tales; and that spirited actress, Mrs. Alfred Wigan. Interesting memories all. Within the past few years the old houses have been silently disappearing one by one, their places being taken by taller, more roomy edifices and more elegant. The narrowness of each space has compelled the adoption of a certain simplicity, with a Dutch-like effect, together with a certain variety of treatment which is acceptable. At each corner



THE WANDLE AT MERTON ABBEY





EALING COMMON

there is an entrance to the square which furnishes an agreeable break. Sloane Street, with the smaller streets and squares beyond, retains, as we have seen, some of its suburban aspect. Only a few years back there was an abundance of pleasant gardens behind the houses in this district. These are now being encroached upon and built over. Here we find, close to Hans Place, a not unpicturesque winding street, Herbert Crescent, like a scene in an opera. There are gabled and "framed" houses, or what simulate such. It is not known that this was the speculation of the late Sir Herbert Stewart, who fell in the Soudan.

It is hardly fanciful to say that the numerous squares of London have each a special tone or flavour. There are old and new squares, old, and old-fashioned, trim, forlorn and neglected; some lately in vogue, now fallen into decay. There are the west-end squares of high fashion: Belgrave, Grosvenor, Portman, and Eaton: and the old-fashioned, some-

what *passé* squares, Russell, Bedford, Bloomsbury, Montague, and others, which have a tone of obsolete respectability. Berkeley and St James's squares display an antique dignity. Hanover Square seems like a bit of foreign town; while Fitzroy Square has architectural claims of no mean kind. There are, besides, some rather forlorn-looking enclosures, such as Golden Square, Queen's Square, and Red Lion Square. The purely modern squares, such as Eccleston, Lowndes, and others, have no "character" at all, and are marked by a general tameness. Indeed, this is the general characteristic of most modern architectural attempts in London: reflecting, perhaps, the general indecision and lack of purpose of the time.

Berkeley Square is one of the most interesting of London squares, from the fine old houses surrounding it, and the handsome Lansdowne House and grounds which join it. It is remarkable for its tranquil rows of great old trees and the rich verdure of its sward. It seems like a portion of a park enclosed to form a square, which no doubt it was.

Here are plane trees, found to be the only trees that really thrive in London, and it has been humorously said they enjoy the London smoke. We might fancy the rooks colonising these old trees. These "parsonic" birds will soon have left us altogether. They still linger in Gray's Inn, where in the year 1878 nearly thirty nests were counted. We know of rooks in a tall tree at Camden Town. Some twenty years ago there was a rook's nest to be seen in the trees in the heart of the noisy City, at the corner of Wood Street, Cheapside; but a mischievous idler, one Sunday



MELBURY ROAD, KENSINGTON

afternoon, fired at them with an air-gun, and they fled, never to return. In the Uxbridge Road at Ealing also there is a rookery. The good ironwork in front of some of the mansions with the lamps and "extinguishers" has often been admired. Within there are stately stuccoed chambers and fine staircases, notably that of No. 44, the balustrades of iron being wrought in florid patterns. At the corner of Bruton Street is Colley Cibber's house, while at No. 11 lived and died Horace Walpole; another, not identified, was Lady Mary Wortley Montagu's. Three wits of such mark form a goodly company for a single square. At No. 45 Lord Clive committed suicide.

There is such a significance in the names of London streets that we might readily reconstruct a number of family histories from the familiar titles to which we raise our eyes. The story of the wealthy Grosvenor family is thus suggested by Davies Street, a lane that turns out of Oxford Street just beyond Bond Street. All this property belonged in the 17th century to a wealthy Mr. Davies, whose only child and heiress married in 1676 Sir Richard Grosvenor. Davies's tomb, the only one, may be seen to this day in the flagged enclosure round Westminster Abbey. In Davies Street will be noticed an old red-brick mansion in a small enclosure known as Bourdon House, which was formerly the "manor house" in which Davies's family resided; while the rural names in the neighbourhood, Farm Street, Hay Hill, etc., show how far outlying in the country was the heiress's property. Thus enriched, the Grosvenors may be traced all over the adjoining districts, their wealth increasing

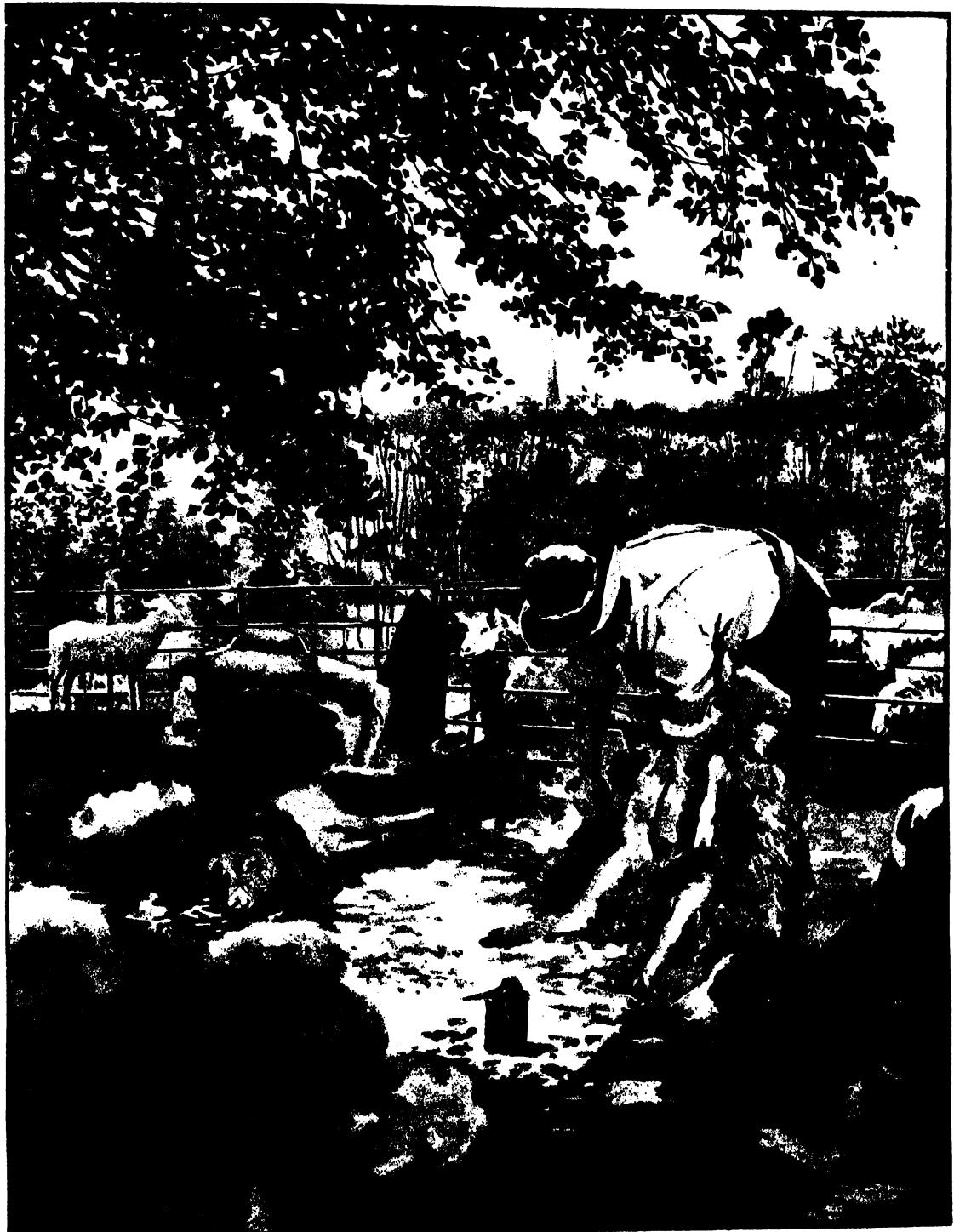


HOLLAND PARK

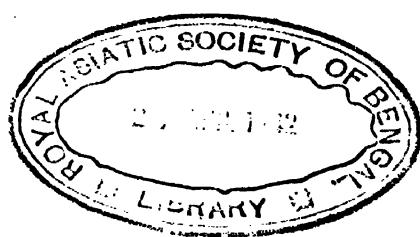


THE QUADRANGLE, MORDEN COLLEGE, BLACKHEATH

yearly with the wealth of London. The fine houses in Grosvenor Place might never have been built, had the advice of King George III. been taken, who suggested the buying of the ground to prevent the gardens of Buckingham Palace being overlooked. But his Ministers grudged the £25,000 necessary for the purchase. A large portion, starting from St. George's Hospital, has been rebuilt with imposing and costly houses, far more lofty than their predecessors and with a more commanding view of the royal gardens. "Belgravia," so called, was created only so lately as 1825, and there are now many living who can recall the swampy district—a portion of which was known as the "Five Fields"—now covered with the houses of Belgrave and other squares and their adjoining streets. The Lord Grosvenor of the day purchased the Five Fields for the bagatelle of £30,000, which, as Mr. Augustus Hare tells us, Lord Cowper might have secured for £200 more, and which Messrs. Cubitt proceeded to lay out and build over. The latter offered £60,000



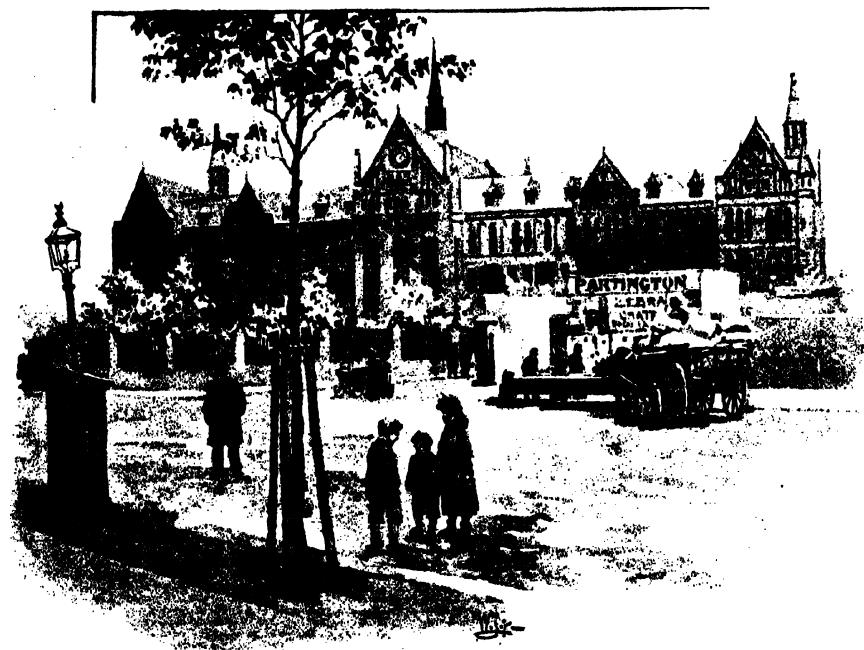
SHEEP-SHEARING IN KENSINGTON GARDENS



for the rents of the property! Ebury, Eaton, Belgrave, Eccleston, Lupus, with other names that meet the eye in the district, are all suggestive of this fortunate family. Belgrave is a village in Lincolnshire. The square was designed by Bassevi, the architect of the Fitzwilliam Museum, and its houses are regular mansions, remarkable for their spaciousness. At three of the corners are detached structures with gardens.

In Grosvenor Square we are struck by the individuality and *character* of the old houses, as well as by the variety of pattern, which is owing to the fact of each having been designed and built as a separate structure, and as not forming part of a monotonous row. The "nobleman or gentleman" employed his architect: hence the well-designed fronts, the fine stairs, halls, and handsome apartments. Here we find pilasters running down the front of the house, with effective dormer windows, almost the rule; plenty of "twisted" ironwork, extinguishers, and the rest. We may note Nos. 12, 28, 37, 43, 44, and 45. Some of the finest brickwork in London is here, in perhaps sounder condition than

when it was first "set," and we may contrast with the quiet dignity and effect of the old work the fussy and more pretentious result of the modern architect, as exhibited in No. 27. No. 33 may be looked at with interest;



for on one evening in February 1820, Thistlewood and the other "Cato Street" conspirators had planned to burn and murder at one *coup* all the Ministers who were dining there. The older squares usually corresponded with their designation, and were literally *square*; but Eaton Square seems to reduce to an absurdity its title—being crossed by roads at right angles, and really consisting of four enclosures.

Cavendish Square is interesting, and has some fine houses of the old pattern; witness that large one in the corner of Holles Street, No. 27, with its innumerable windows. In the various streets leading to it we find, as usual, names significant of heiresses and marriages and lordly state. Thus the Lady Henrietta Cavendish Holles was married in 1713 to Harley, Earl of Oxford, and so here we find streets with all these names.

There was a certain General Strode who lived in the last century, and who had an extraordinary and costly method of testifying his loyalty, viz. by setting up statues in squares. In this square he placed one to the Duke of Cumberland, and in Queen's Square, Bloomsbury, one to the Queen Charlotte.

The large, gloomy enclosed mansion of the Duke of Portland which stands on the left has a history of its own, and belonged to Lord Harcourt. The enormous screens, looking like open-air Venetian blinds, which shroud the gardens from profane eyes, were set up by the late eccentric owner, whose strange burrowings and vast subterranean chambers at Welbeck excited amusement and perplexity.



KENSINGTON PARK ROAD

The two stately Grecian mansions of good architecture which ornament another side of the square have often proved a riddle. They are so close together as to suggest the idea that they were intended as portions of one great mansion, and indeed the

tradition is that the Duke of Chandos intended covering the whole of that side with one imposing structure. Mr. Hare states that the houses at the corner streets were actually the wings of the intended edifice, but they hardly seem important enough. The one at the corner of Harley Street, No. 16, has some interesting associations, and was occupied by the Princess Amelia, mother of George III., so much associated with the name of Lord Bute. It has a stately old-fashioned air, and boasts some fine apartments. 'Its neighbours formed portions of the original mansion.

Portman Square is on the property of one of the most important London landlords. Dorset, Blandford, and Bryanston Squares, with Orchard Street, are so called after the country seats of this potentate. Portman Square boasts good old trees and fine old mansions. No. 34, Mr. Hare tells us, was fitted up for the marriage of the Duke of Gloucester with Lady Waldegrave in 1766, which gave such displeasure to the king. The drawing-room is said to be beautifully decorated in the Adam style. More interesting is the larger and somewhat dreary-looking mansion at the corner, which stands in its own grounds and gardens. This was built for the celebrated Mrs. Montague, who, after long entertaining the



ADDISON ROAD NORTH, KENSINGTON

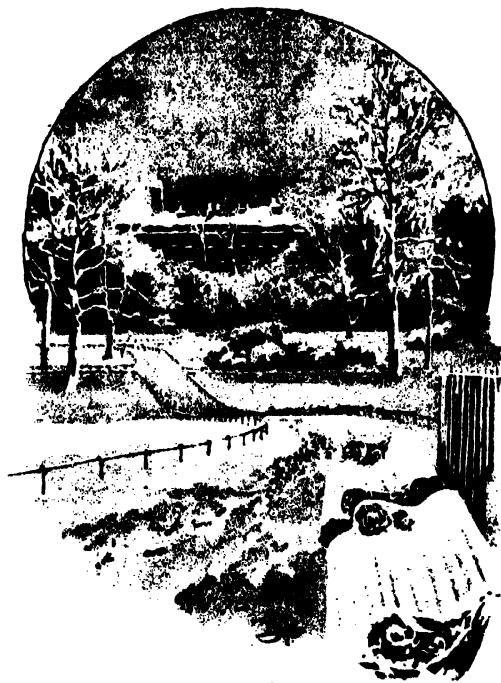
“Blue-Stockings,” exhibited another form of eccentricity. On May Day she would assemble the chimney-sweeping boys in her gardens.

St. James’s, as we have seen, is another of these stately squares offering an unaffected charm, having grand old trees and an equestrian statue in the centre, which few, we venture to say, have noted or known for whom it was intended. It has some interesting associations. Behind the Duke of Norfolk’s mansion is an unsuspected courtyard, beyond which is an old disused mansion, now offices, in which George III. was born. In front of another imposing mansion will be remarked some iron posts, which are real cannon fixed in the ground to commemorate the victory of Admiral Boscawen, who became Lord Falmouth. Another house recalls a dramatic night—that of Mrs. Boehm’s ball, when a post-chaise and four dashed up with flags, and Major Percy, rushing upstairs, brought news of the Waterloo victory to the Prince Regent, who was in the room.

We may note at the corner of King Street an ancient and dilapidated house—the strangest contrast to its late millionaire owner. It is difficult

to credit that this shabby mansion with its decrepit portico was the town residence of the late Duke of Cleveland. The old mean doorway is curious, so are the stables and offices, which stand where they did and as they did, tiled roof and all, a couple of centuries ago. Within the mansion there are splendid and richly furnished rooms.

Close to the Regent Circus, where the “tide of life” runs strong indeed, we see a little old-world enclosure, Golden Square, which, for its tranquillity and air of antique fashion, offers the oddest



IN REGENT'S PARK



KINGSTON BRIDGE



contrast to all around it. Old houses, rather dilapidated, all subdivided into offices, moulder away about it. Squalid streets branch away from it. Here it was that Ralph Nickleby gave handsome parties to his noble clients. But it is difficult to conceive that only some forty years ago it was a retired square of private houses where "genteel" persons, and notably the late Cardinal Wiseman, lived.

Leicester Square offers a *melange* of interesting associations. Saville House was standing not very many years ago; here George II. had lived and George III. had grown up. Here, too, lived a triad of painters, Thornhill, Hogarth, and Reynolds—the latter's studio being now Messrs. Puttick's auction rooms—and O'Connor, another artist. The Countess Guiccioli and Kosciusko were here for a short time. The vicissitudes of the square before its rescue by Baron Grant were degrading. The equestrian statue was long shored up, grotesquely decorated with sweeping-brushes, etc.; the enclosure was used as a deposit for rubbish, and occasionally for panoramas. At last Baron Grant purchased it, and, after adorning it suitably, presented it to the city.

Returning now to Piccadilly, we come to Park Lane, a sort of London "*Avenue des Champs Elysées*." Yet some of the great mansions here, belonging to noblemen of vast wealth, seem "poorish" enough. One wonders why they have not been rebuilt in greater state, and in a style more worthy of the site. The question of leases, etc., of course stands in



KNIGHTSBRIDGE BARRACKS

20/-



THE WANDLE, WANDSWORTH

the way. The fountain, in spite of the three poets clustered awkwardly together, and always dry, is not a thing of beauty, and might be wished away in some more retired site. It is a curious fact that scarcely a third of the houses are officially in Park Lane ; these are really in Park Street and Seamore Place, the backs of the houses only looking into the "lane."

Every one of taste will deplore the new, rather unfortunate arrangement at Hyde Park Corner. The arch might surely have been left where it stood without interfering with the traffic, and the elegant entrance to the Park, designed for a narrow street, has now lost its proportions, being made to look on a vast triangular *Place* that bends and slopes down a hill. Through the colonnade we have a glimpse of the Achilles—the rather odd testimonial of the "ladies of England" to the Iron Duke,

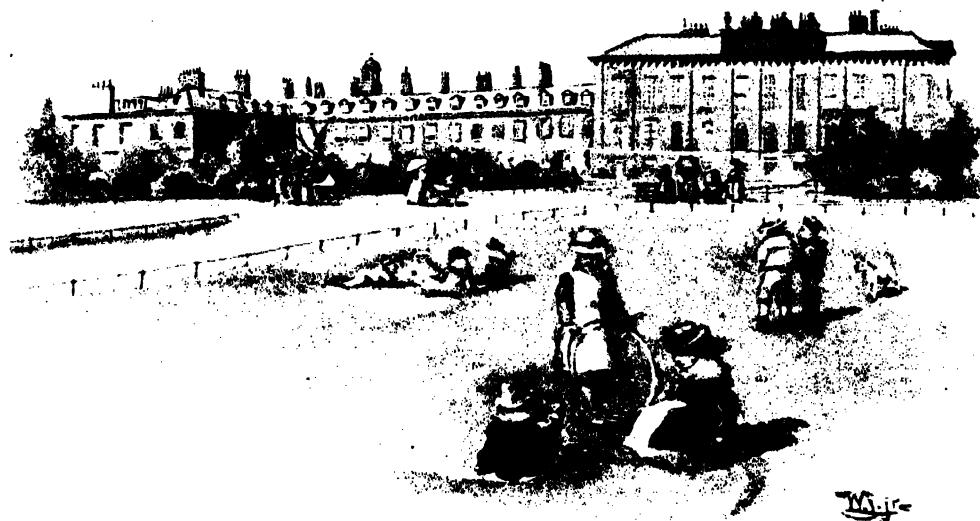
whose house stands close by, and in front of his house his latest statue, guarded by four of his warriors. So recently as Lady Morgan's day, Knightsbridge and Albert Gate were almost as rustic and countryfied as parts of Hammersmith Road. The little Albert Gate Terrace is a survival of these times. Each has its garden in front, evidence of its suburban character; and a tiny one behind, with a view of the undulating park and its trees beyond. These quaint, interesting houses, which suggest Church Row at Clapham, have but short tenure of existence. The monstrous pile beside them, "The Mansions," gives significant warning that their place is wanted. Further on we come to the handsome Knightsbridge Barracks, a goodly specimen of architecture on the Park side, monumental, and a decided improvement to the neighbourhood. Beside it stood until recently a huge riding school, which has been levelled, perhaps to give place to the irrepressible "flats."

The gloomy Lowther Lodge, architects affirm, though few would imagine it, to be a very fine specimen of their craft. The great Albert Hall, more than any structure in London, excites the wonder of foreigners. We have heard of the delight and surprise of Verdi when he entered it to conduct his own work. It will be noted that the building stands quite awry to the highway; the reason whereof is this curious one: that it was originally intended to divert the road and bring it close to the Albert Memorial, the Hall being designed so as to run parallel to the new line of road. The "Albert Mansions" adjoining is a stately mass of brickwork. On the site of the Albert Hall stood the



COTTAGES AT MORTLAKE

old Gore House, erst the scene of the d'Orsay-Blessington revels, the lady holding for some years a sort of *salon*, with gatherings of all sorts and conditions of persons. The luckless pair were swept away in a torrent of debt, and not very long after their mansion was swept away too. Many will recall the time, not so long since, when Brompton

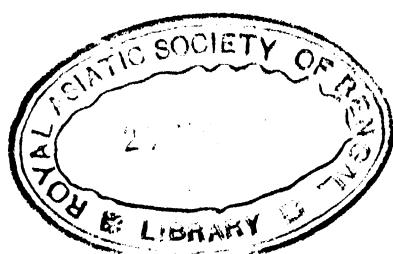


KENSINGTON PALACE—SOUTH FRONT

offered quite a "countryfied" suburban air. You had to "drive out" to Brompton, and there found trees and grass, and pretty winding roads, lined with walls, behind which were gardens and villas. One scrap of the old Brompton is to be seen in the lawn in front of the South Kensington Museum, a patch of grass richly green, "fat" and unkempt, dotted with a few ancient trees. Another survival is the quaint Brompton Square hard by the Oratory. No wonder it was dear to the theatrical world, who were glad to come here for "country air." Miss Pope, Braham,



THE THAMES FROM RICHMOND HILL.



Mrs. Davenport, Yates, Billington and Incledon, Catalani, William Farren (the elder), Liston, Planchè, George Colman, and the Wigans, were all Bromptonians.

The well-known Oratory is the finest and most richly adorned of modern London churches. It is almost cathedral-like, with its dome and transepts; its sanctuary, all gorgeous with incrusted marbles, gilding, frescoes, and oak work. The taste displayed, however, falls somewhat short of its magnificence. The side altar, which was purchased "for a song" from some suppressed Italian church, is a perfect marvel of the old Florentine art of inlaid marble work. The ritual is here carried out in stately and imposing fashion, and the music is of the first order.

Kensington has still something of the air of an old-fashioned quarter. Not so many years ago this old "court suburb" offered something of the tone of Richmond, when a few red Queen Anne houses, such as Kensington House, were standing. Even now Church Street, Kensington Square, and Edwardes Square retain this antique air.

Kensington Palace, with its gardens, seems associated with placid repose and a tranquil old fashion. The





MARBLE ARCH

building itself has a cheerful tone and is pleasingly irregular; all its wings, guard-houses, stables, and dependencies, such as the banqueting-room, have a welcome capriciousness. It shows the sign-manual of Wren, who altered and beautified it. Originally a nobleman's mansion, it had belonged to Finch,

Earl of Nottingham, who was Lord Chancellor; and from him William III., who fancied the place much, bought it. It might be said there are few houses so charged with royal memories and associations; indeed all its gloomy chambers recall some dramatic scene. Three sovereigns died here in succession, Mary, William, and Anne, each demise being attended with striking circumstances; while George II. and Frederick, Prince of Wales, also expired in the Palace. Most of George III.'s family lived, at one time or another, within its walls: the Duke of Sussex, in the midst of his great collection of books and Bibles; and his second wife, the Duchess of Inverness, who survived him for many years. The most interesting association is furnished by the residence of the Duke of Kent, her Majesty the Queen having been born in the old rooms, and living there almost without interruption until she came to the throne. It is said that her toys, work-boxes, etc., are still to be seen strewn on the tables, just as she left them.

One of those curious customs which are kept up in London, and whose existence is often unsuspected, is associated with a little grassy enclosure at the south-west corner of the Palace. This is the annual sheep-

shearing. Thousands of sheep are brought from Scotland and distributed over London wherever grazing can be obtained. After the shearing, the sheep are kept awhile in the park for fattening, and thence gradually find their way to the butchers' shops. The shearing, it may be conceived, is an animated, picturesque scene.

Addison Road and the district round it is not a very enlivening quarter. There is an air of tame insipidity; but not many reflect that it takes its name from our great essayist. Every one who is interested in the memories of great men and great eras will find himself stirred as he wanders by Holland House and Holland Park and Campden Hill. Addison died in the fine old mansion inhabited by Lord Holland, his eccentric lady, and their coterie. His statue is to be seen through the railings. Macaulay wrote and flourished at Holly Lodge, not five minutes' walk distant. We relish the associations, artistic and others, so plentiful in the district—Mr. Marcus Stone, Mr. Fildes, and others have their studios in Melbury Road; in Holland Park Road, close by, is

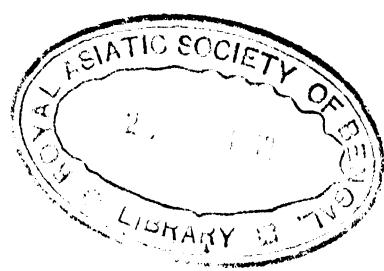


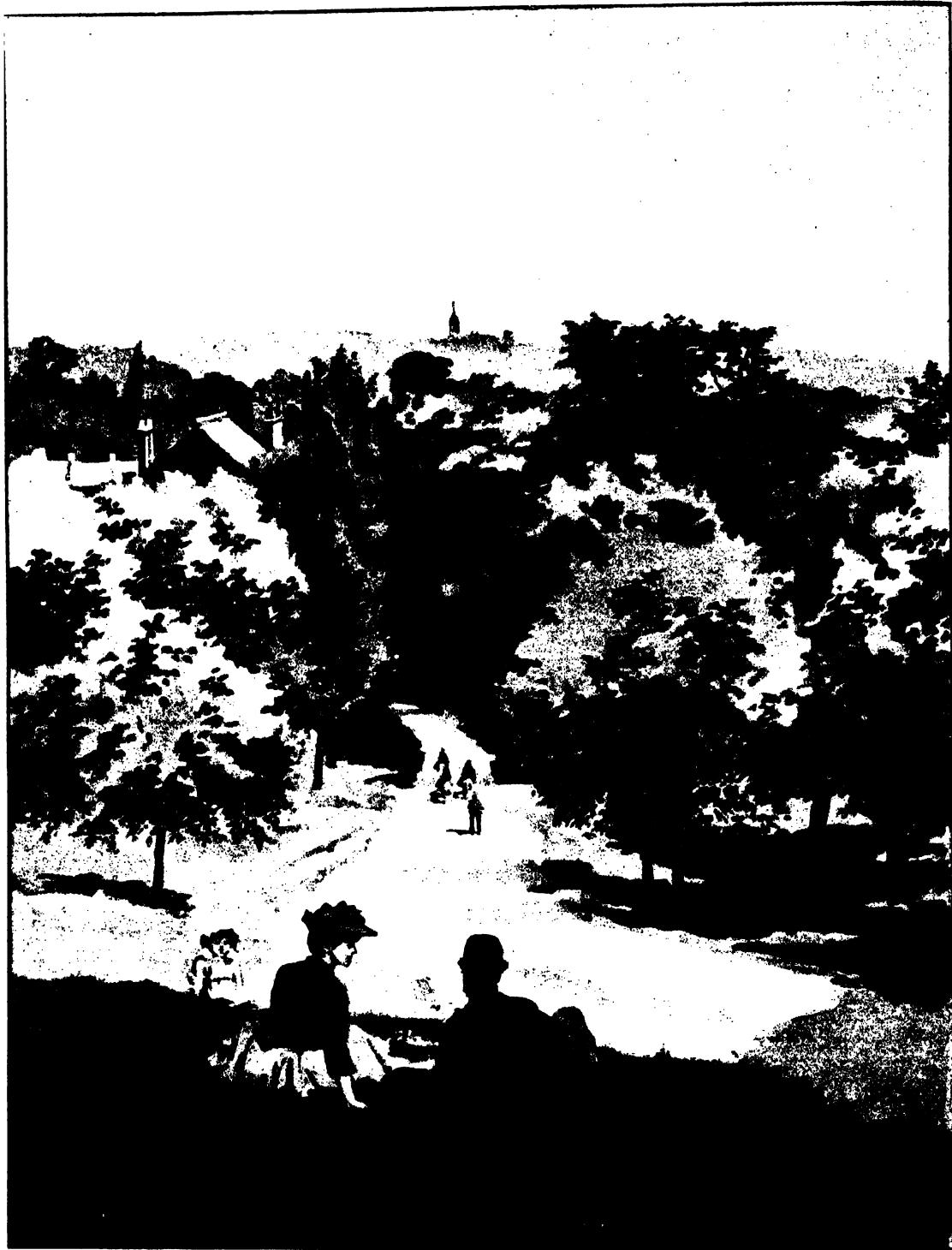
EDGWARE ROAD

Sir Frederick Leighton's charming house, a sort of *rus-in-urbe*. There is a pleasingly sylvan lane which leads from the Hammersmith Road to Campden Hill, and which is known as "Lord Holland's Walk." We might fancy that we were in some rural walk miles away from London. Following the road from Notting Hill Gate, we find ourselves in the great Bayswater district, at Notting Hill and Ladbroke Grove, and Westbourne Park, which offers much of the suburban character, with its "Institutes" and entertainments for self-improvement, to say nothing of the Universal Provider who reigns here and has innumerable subjects. On the Hammersmith Road we may note that vast, dull, red pile—red walls, red roof—which is St. Paul's School. In course of years, when the tints will have toned down, the effect will be more harmonious.



ACHILLES STATUE





HAMPSTEAD HEATH, LOOKING ACROSS VALE OF HEALTH TO HIGHGATE



IN CLISSOLD OR NEWINGTON PARK

CHAPTER III

LONDON NORTHERN SUBURBS

Oddities associated with Portland Place—The Regent's Park—Suburb of St. John's Wood and Marylebone—Dickens—Islington—The New River.

HAVING thus accomplished our promenade, we once more take our flight back to the point whence we started, and follow a new path northwards by Marylebone and Regent Street: by Islington, Euston Road, Primrose Hill, on to Hampstead. By a happy chance, the park bounds this quarter, and has thus secured free play of fresh air, otherwise the ground had by this time been assuredly built over and covered with the usual squalid streets and tenements which distinguish the London suburb.

At the top of Regent Street—one of the busiest and most brilliant quarters of London—we find ourself almost touching the suburb. It is a peculiarity of London City that whatever direction we may take we are sure to encounter some “oddity” or curio, something whereby hangs a very eccentric tale. Thus if we walk past the Langham Hotel, we shall note Nash’s fantastic church, the wonder and puzzle of foreigners: an extinguisher, sharp as a needle, has pierced through a cylindrical body; a small temple is placed on the top of a larger one, and Corinthian pillars on Ionic ones. Some trees on the right denote the former garden of Foley House, which building the Duke made a freehold, in return for permission to build Portland Place. This latter does not follow, as might be expected, the line of Regent Street; and this, it is said, was contrived by Nash, the architect, who had quarrelled with Sir John Langham, whose house stood about here. It was claimed for Portland Place that it was one of the finest and



REGENT'S PARK—A PLEASANT HOUR

widest streets in Europe, the fact being it was not one half the width of Sackville Street in Dublin. Another account asserted it to be the "most regular and spacious *in the world*." It is 123 feet across. Most of it was the work of the Brothers Adam, and it exhibits their elegant touch in many points.

Duchess Street, Duke Street,

Bentinck Street, Bolsover Street, Portland Street, are all complimentary to the lord of the soil. Another curio of the district, and which we dare swear is unsuspected by many, is the St. Katherine's Hospital, close by in the park, a foundation for four needy "ladies" and four needy "gentlemen."

The Regent's Park seems scarcely to be accepted seriously, being held to be a rather "poorish" or feeble attempt at a park. Indeed, its

rather languishing meads contrast with the healthy flourishing grasses of Hyde Park. Seventy years ago it was simply a large tract of pasture land, which was enclosed under the Regent's reign, and laid out in the rather theatrical terraces with which we are so familiar. It is curious to read of the



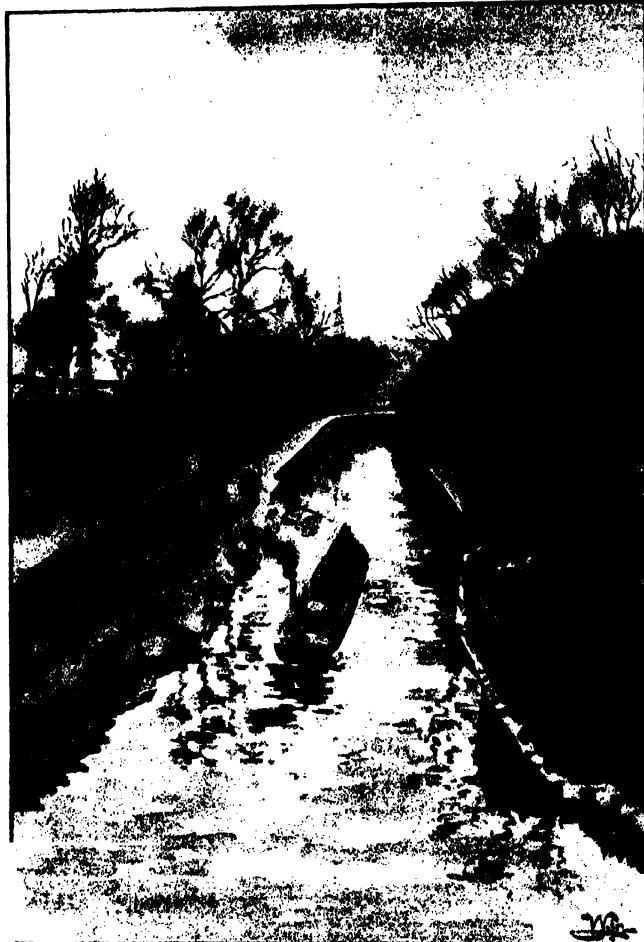
CAMBRIDGE TERRACE, REGENT'S PARK



CHESTER TERRACE, REGENT'S PARK

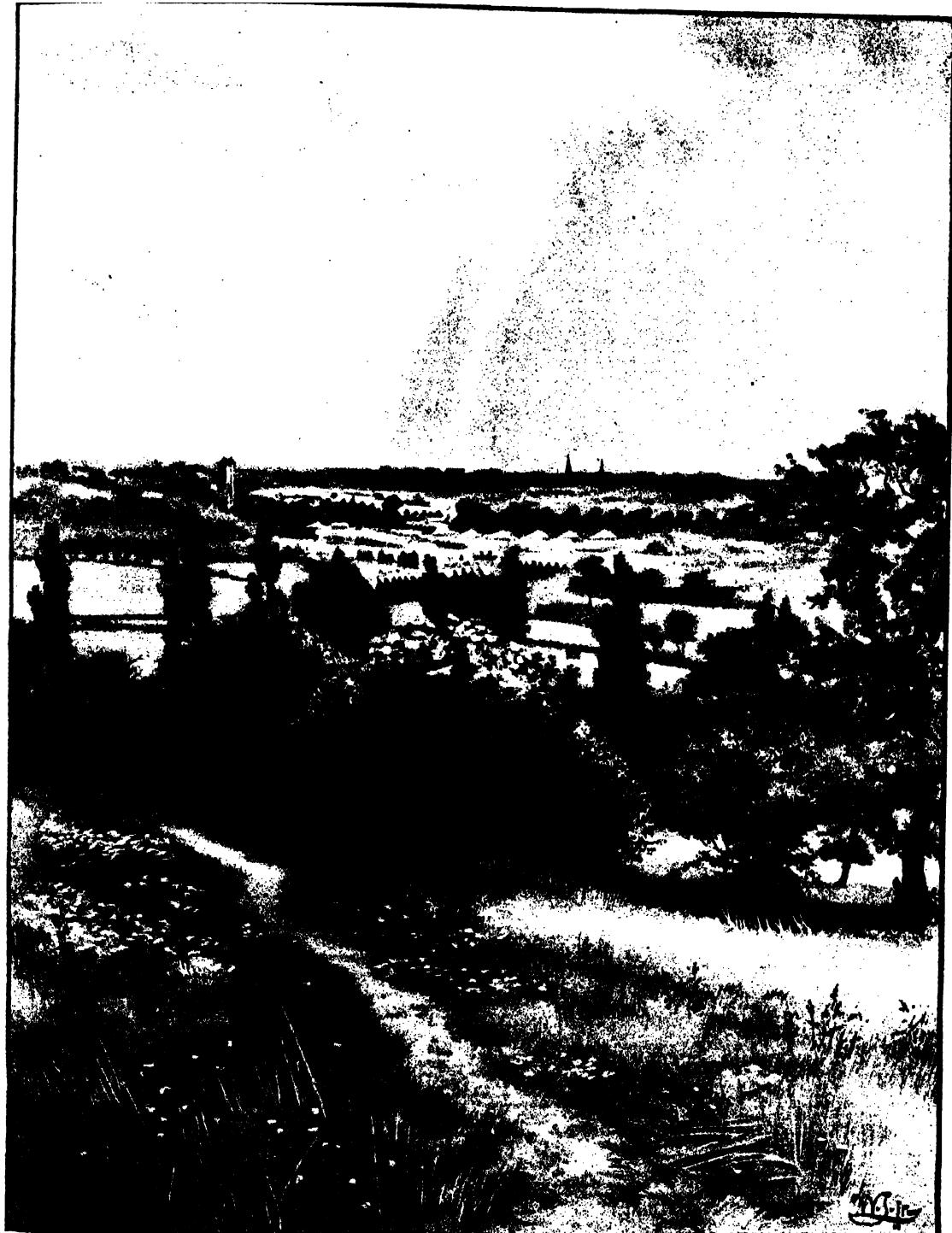
admiration and almost rapture with which these structures were saluted. They were the beginnings of a new order of architecture. One admirer said that "the long morning of a fine day may be pleasantly spent in

making a tour of this charming spot. Its best approach is to turn to the left, under the beautiful Ionic colonnade of Park Crescent, surveying the tasteful plantation of Park Square." We are also instructed how to obtain "a fine view" of the new church, etc. In short, the delight and satisfaction of that time contrast oddly with our indifference. The various terraces, Cambridge, Hanover, York ("which more resembles the residence of a sovereign prince"), and Cumberland Terrace, most ambitious of all, the huge sculpture on the pediment, "one of the largest in the kingdom, being by Mr. Bubb," are all as imposing as



REGENT'S PARK CANAL, FROM ONE OF THE BRIDGES

stucco and paint can make them. There are also villas, standing in their own grounds, scattered through the park; the tenants must feel as though they were living in the country. At Gloucester Terrace there is a pleasant glimpse of the Regent's Canal pursuing its muddy course, yet winding not ungracefully.



CROUCH END, FROM MUSWELL HILL.



Some of the canals that trail through London present themselves often as a surprise to the explorer. Others, too, have often a certain picturesque effect. You look down from some airy little bridge and see it meandering on below you between its green banks. More grim, grimy, and practical-looking are other canals, say by Paddington, lined by factories and warehouses. Not unpicturesque is the entrance



GRAND JUNCTION CANAL

lock to the little canal at Grosvenor Road, and which wends its way mysteriously up to Ebury Bridge.

Londoners are the most incurious of people, and there are quarters of their city, outside the one in which they reside, to which they never resort, or never have seen—unless drawn by business or pleasure. We suspect that there are few who are tempted out to *St. John's Wood*, save for the purpose of visiting some friend. And yet this district has

a novelty of its own, of some summer evening, when a dinner is given at one of the innumerable villas. Its pleasant gardens, strictly walled round, on which open the inviting rooms, seem to be miles away from

the Marble Arch. In these gardens is many an old tree saved from destruction. In one, in Avenue Road, that we wot of, the church tower rises at the bottom, from the trees, and the whole effect is as of the vicar's garden in some village. We may wander for hours past these villas, along the Maida Vale and Grove Road, still confronted by high walls, while we speculate what sort of persons live within, and whether they enjoy their seclusion. The quarter we live in often materially influences our character, profession, and habits of life. It would be impossible for, say, a bachelor who has removed from the pleasant bustle of St. James's Street to



IN REGENT'S PARK

take up his abode here permanently without, after due time, giving way to its influence. He would become gradually retiring and silent in his ways, as he would take his walk daily along the somewhat monotonous roads. The other London quarters would appear far away, the object of a special expedition deliberately planned. Much the same

feeling, we suspect, is induced by long residence in the neighbouring *Regent's Park*. There must be a sad sort of placidity engendered in the denizens from perpetually gazing on the monotonous expanse of stucco terraces, and the stunted trees and shrubs and the unhealthy-looking grass. Thus, walking in the *Regent's Park* does not seem like walking in *Hyde Park*. There, there is a genuine fresh tone, but the other seems somewhat of a sham park, reflecting the artificial taste of its illustrious founder.

As we have seen, we can pass from, say, the monotonous *Harley Street* into a sort of country suburb. The very name of the *Marylebone Road*, like the *Edgware Road*, suggests its old uses as a suburban highway. Here we find enclosed villas and gardens. Close to this *Marylebone Road* is *Devonshire Terrace*, where at No. 1 we find a sort of villa in an enclosure, the early residence of *Charles Dickens* when his prosperity was increasing. As we look on this old-fashioned, faded tenement, there rise up before us all the incidents of those early days of enjoyment and good spirits, the brilliant theatricals, the "Humphrey's Clock," when this truly delightful being



THE NEW RIVER, GREEN LANE, FINSBURY

was attracting all eyes and all hearts. Since then the old villa has seen many changes, and is now incorporated with the adjoining convent. From Devonshire Terrace we flit away to Kensington, where, at the foot of the palace gardens, we stand before that well-designed brick house, more truly "Queen Anne" or Williamite than any of the modern pretentious edifices which assume the name. With its green slated roof and balustrade, and modest, serviceable design, its shading trees already well grown, it forms a pleasing object. Many an American is found standing before it, the more inquisitive demanding admission. This is the house that Thackeray, in the days of his prosperity, built

for himself. We have only to take a flight to Covent Garden and there survey the little workshop, as it might be styled, of the first of these literary "masters," beside whom the *littérateurs* of our time seem to dwindle. It is difficult to resist evoking these ghostly but interesting memories.

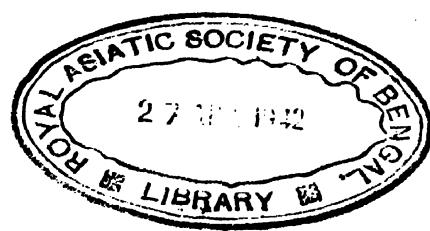
Facing the Lyceum portico, in Wellington Street, there has stood for some thirty years or more a bow-windowed little structure, prominent yet half retiring, of good architectural proportion in its modest way, and having a cosy, inviting



LIVERPOOL ROAD, ISLINGTON



IN THE MEADOWS, FRIERN BARNET



air. Beside it is the stage entrance of the Gaiety Theatre, with a flaunting canvas transparency overhead, and for which its little neighbour has now proved to have been a Naboth's vineyard. A year ago scaffoldings were reared about it; the bow-windows bricked up; its "in'ards" transformed. By and by it is likely to pass away unnoticed, or be absorbed into its garish neighbour, without remark; yet no London "Old Mortality" will see its condition without a pang, for it used to be the old original "Office of *Household Words*," that once favourite "weekly," read by all as the inspired utterance of the gifted editor. His sole attraction ennobled the cheap "weekly," - "price twopence," or in its "monthly parts, price nine-pence"; and at the railway-bookstalls the traveller laid out his twopence without loss of self-respect.

Islington, more than any other northern suburb of London, retains an original character, and has a kind of old-world or old-fashioned note. At its theatre, when there has been some singular attraction, many persons of high quality have rushed from the west-end to witness the show. At night-time Islington, about the regions of the "Angel" and the Caledonian Road, has the



HAMPSTEAD HEATH, BATHING POND IN DISTANCE



IN THE CALEDONIAN ROAD

look of a foreign town, so garish is it, with its lights, and jingling trams, and enormous crowds. Two old monuments, as they may be called, lend it a curious interest, the New River and the Canonbury Tower.

The New River, now close on 300 years old, is really a picturesque little conduit, which meanders delightfully all the

way from Hertfordshire to London, on its forty miles' course. A little spring close to Ware—of “Great-Bed” memory—is its source, whence it flows into a basin, thence proceeds on its way to town, tapping the river Lea, the scene of old Isaac's *Complete Angler*. To track this

pretty runnel, which you could often almost jump across, passing through Islington and Canonbury, thence on by Newington and Clissold Park, through many fair meadows and shaded avenues, calling up, as we walk, the old Sir Hugh Myddleton, would be pleasant entertainment for a summer's day. And a pleasant hour could surely be spent rambling through the deserted chambers of old Canonbury Tower, whose finely carved panels will excite admiration. We find it with some difficulty, after wandering among the deserted terraces and faded squares of the



CANONBURY TOWER

district. These latter are of curious shapes and patterns, in corners and perched on hills. There is a glorious view from the terrace of the old tower, which seems still haunted by the ghosts of Oliver Goldsmith, George Daniel, and Washington Irving, who lodged there.



AVENUE ROAD, ST. JOHN'S WOOD



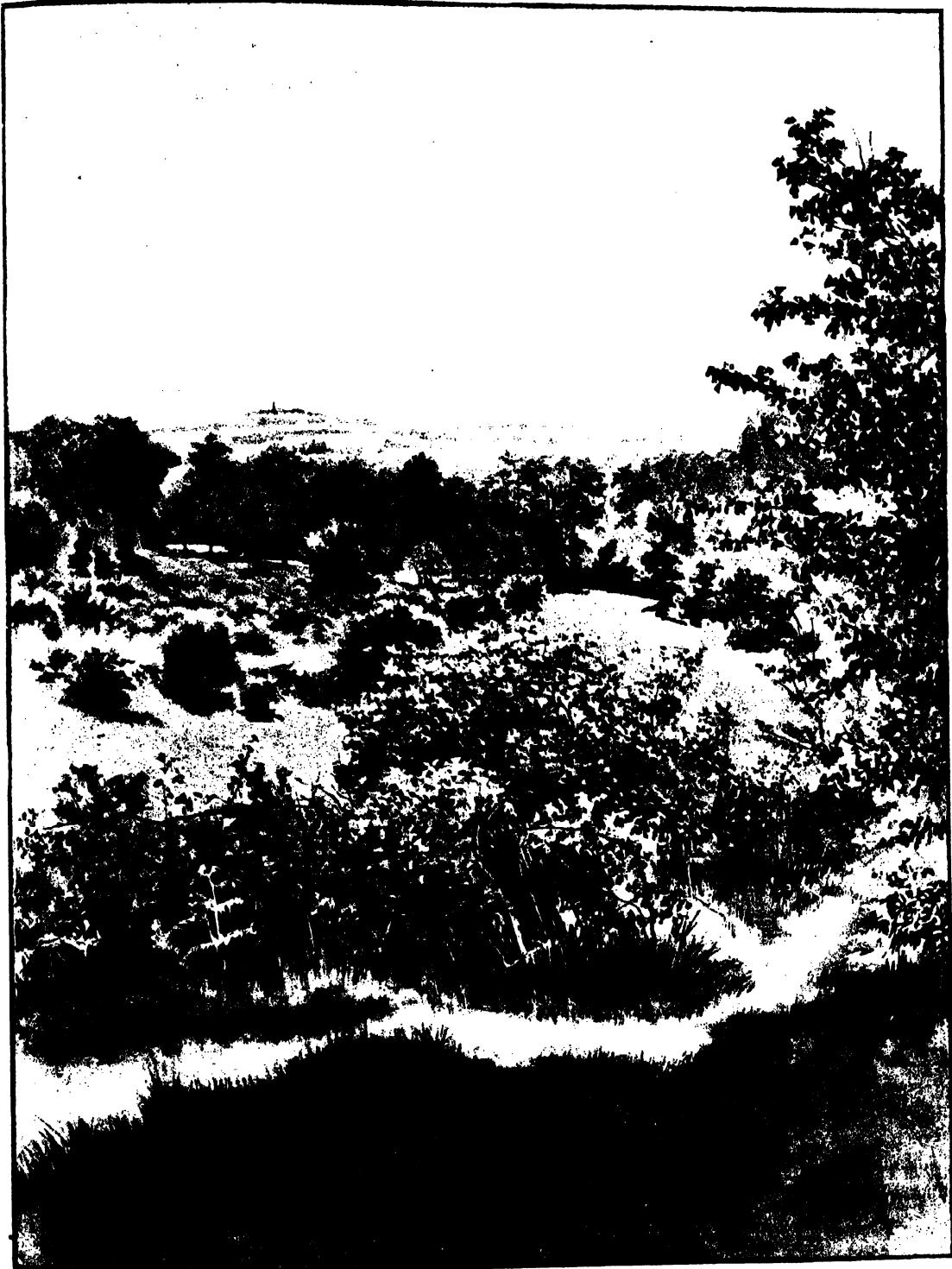
LEG OF MUTTON POND, HAMPSTEAD

CHAPTER IV

THE NORTHERN HEIGHTS

Hampstead and Highgate—Literary Inns—Caen Wood—Highgate Woods—Muswell Hill.

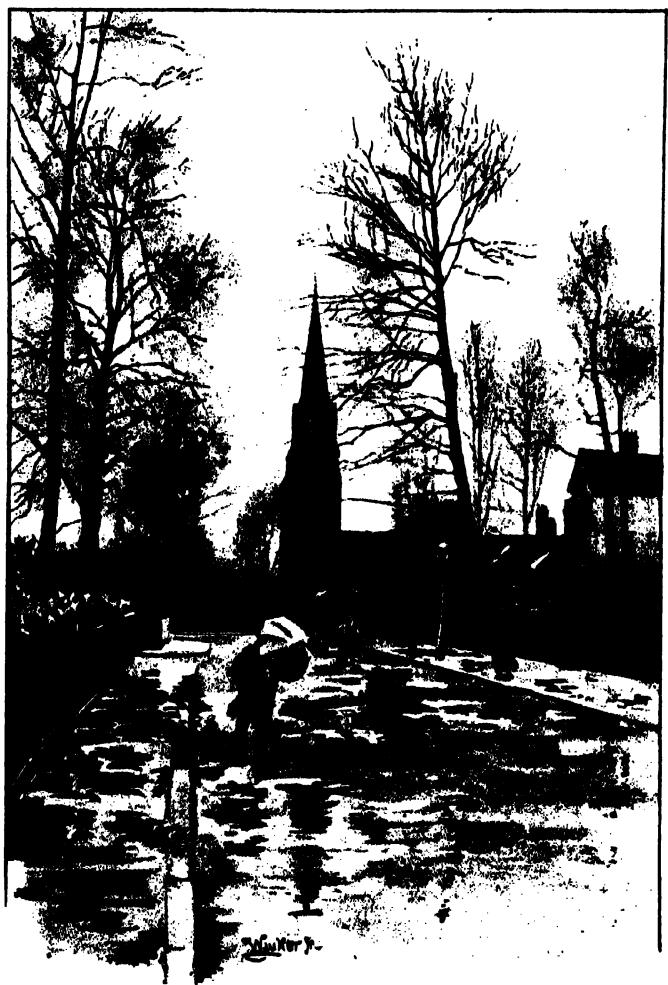
THERE are many pleasant and varied paths by which we gain what have been called the Northern Heights of London, and what are, besides, the most original and enjoyable of its suburbs. By the Regent's Park, the "Swiss College"; by Primrose Hill, Kilburn, and Haverstock Hill, we can make our way to these breezy ascents, from which there opens out for us quite a new and unexpected rustic country. No suburb is more grateful and more of a surprise to the "jaded Londoner" than these heights of Hampstead and Highgate. In spite of changes and the inevitable rebuilding, they retain their charm



HARROW AND "WELSH HARP," FROM HAMPSTEAD HEATH 1



of old fashion. There is a steady gentle ascent from the city; with every step the pedestrian finds himself in purer and more exhilarating air; while the well-wooded heights, crowned by the green copper spire of the church, seem always inviting him on. At the foot of Hampstead High Street, by the Fire Station, two steep ascents, equally picturesque, lie before him, which wind upwards in irregular fashion; both lead to the breezy Heath. The one to the left is an original "bit," from its rural and straggling character. Well-shaded alleys and lanes—"walks"—steal away to the right and to the left; there are old corners, and foot-paths lined with ancient trees, hanging some twenty or thirty feet over the road; bits of old brick wall, mildewed and mouldering, yet sound, over which peep the eaves of some quaint old house set awry and at hostile angles. What shall be said of the lanes that invite us astray, and bring us back to the point of starting in a not unwelcome perplexity? everything is "up hill" and "down dale"; there are sequestered shaded corners. Many indeed are the attractions of this good old Hampstead, whose charm for a century and more writers have never been weary of



WILLESDEN LANE, KILBURN

singing. It is astonishing how its irregular graces have escaped so long without alteration or destruction. The names of the houses and quarters are picturesque and piquant, such as Grove Hill, Frognal, the Hermitage, Bell-Moor House. We have an abundance of "Walks" and "Lanes" and "Mounts" and the like: there are "Well

Walk," "Justice Bench Walk," "Heath Mount," "Squire's Mount," "Evergreen Hill," "Holly Hill," which correspond fittingly with the localities. So conservative is the artistic feeling here, that the modern

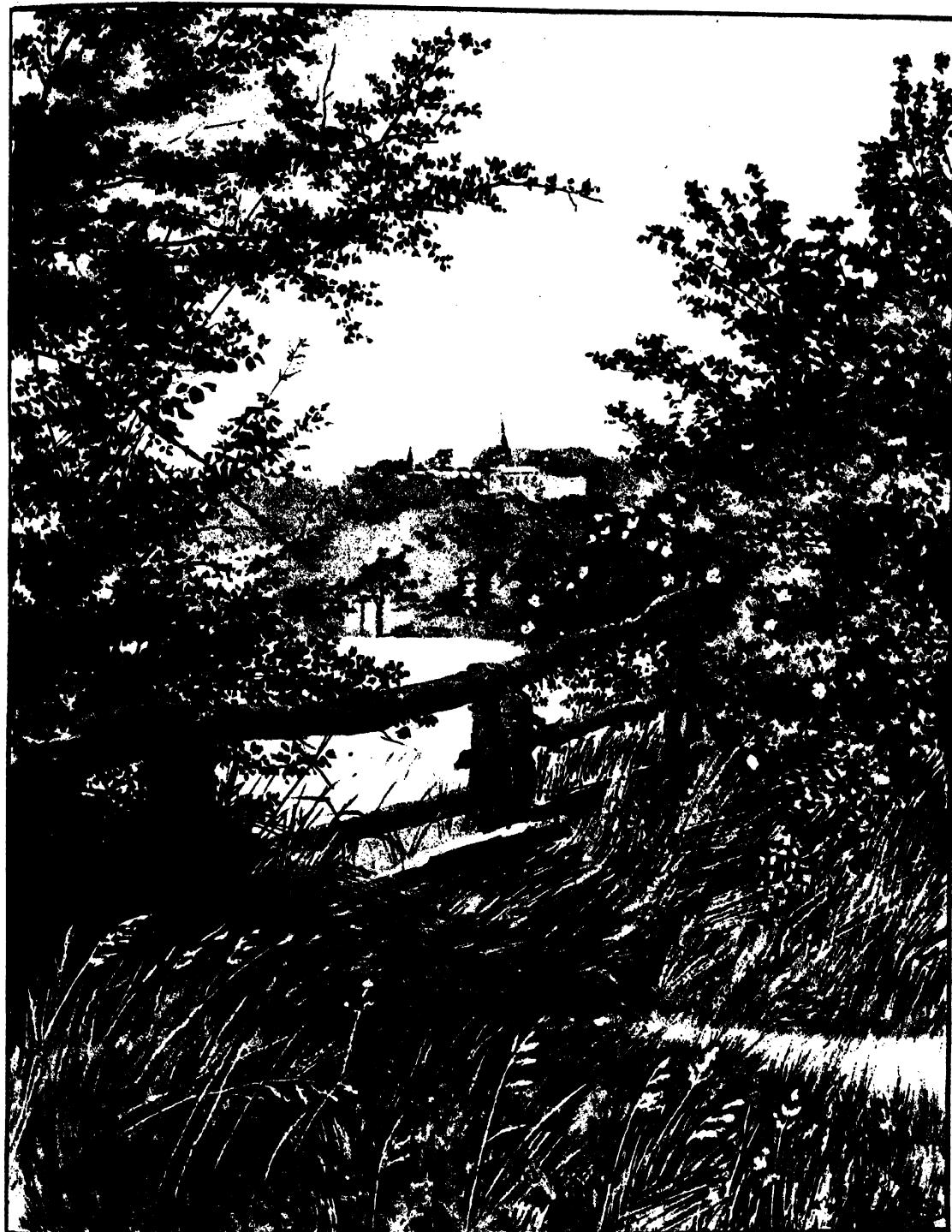
attempts at house-building exhibit the antique feeling. Witness "Fitzjohn's Avenue"—a picturesque mixture of greenery and warm red—while even the ascent lends a charm. Judge Bench Walk or "Justice Walk" is a spot charmingly sequestered on the "Upper Terrace," where you can sit in the shade and enjoy the superb view, across the rolling champaign country, all the way to Harrow—a view that recalled Italy to Leigh Hunt. The tradition runs that during the plague the judges were driven here to hold their courts. Close by, on the highest tableland near London,



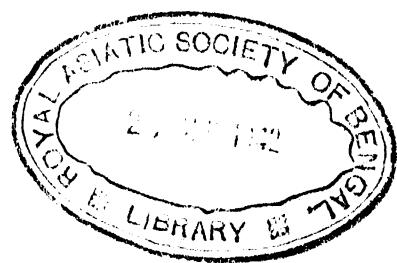
ST. EDMUND'S TERRACE, PRIMROSE HILL.



BELSIZE AVENUE, HAVERSTOCK HILL.



HARROW-ON-THE-HILL, FROM THE MEADOWS



stands the "Jack Straw's Castle" to which Dickens and Forster used to ride when out for "a shoemaker's holiday," as they called it—a comfortable hostelry and public-house combined. There are indeed three Hampstead Inns which are bound up with literary life and associations, and almost within sight of each other. On the right, at the corner of Well Walk, we note an antique but substantial dwelling-house, encircled by rusted walls, with fair grounds within, and fine old trees, beeches and cedars. This was the former "Flask," which no one of sensibility can contemplate without a pang, for he recalls the painfully



WELL WALK, HAMPSTEAD



FITZJOHN'S AVENUE, HAMPSTEAD

real fiction of the heroic Clarissa. It is said that Americans and Frenchmen often ask their way to "the Flask." Members of the Kit-Kat Club used to meet



HOLLY HILL, HAMPSTEAD, SHOWING FIRE STATION

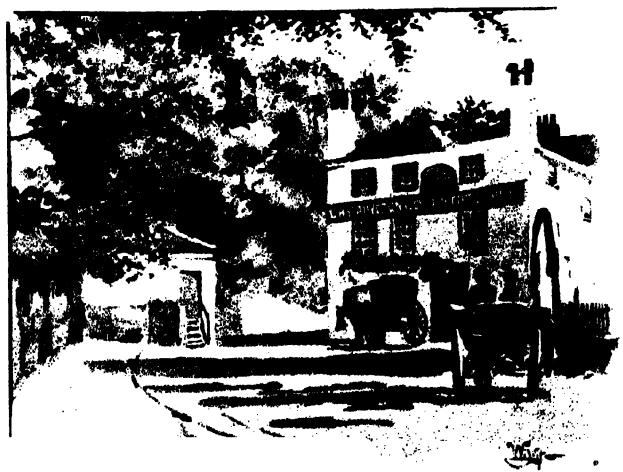
furnished Dickens with the Merdle episode in his *Little Dorrit*; at Jack Straw's Castle the whole story is related in gruesome style. Passing the pleasantly inviting road, and fanned by breezes from both sides of the Heath, we come to "The Spaniards," the third



"BULL AND BUSH," HAMPSTEAD

here, and from 1771 to 1800 it was the residence of the intemperate George Steevens, the great Shakespeare scholar, whose last moments, it was said, were as tempestuous as his life.

On the descending slope behind Jack Straw's Castle was found, one February morning in 1856, the body of John Sadlier, a little silver cream-ewer beside him. This



"THE SPANIARDS," HAMPSTEAD



HEATH MOUNT, HAMPSTEAD

stable, Romney, Copley Fielding, Müller, Morland, Landseer, and Stanfield. Before coming to "The Spaniards" we note an unpretending-looking villa, with very large windows and with an attenuated portico, bearing the name of Erskine House. Here Burke paid one of his last visits. There used to be a tunnel under the roadway (just as Dickens had one at Gads Hill), leading from the grounds on the other side, but this has been filled up. In a moment of caprice Erskine sold it to Lord Mansfield, and bought a barren estate in Sussex, where he set up a factory of brooms! The eccentricities of his last days make melancholy reading.

At Highgate we find Rosslyn House, the residence of another great lawyer, Wedderburn; while a short walk

literary inn, with its rural old-fashioned air and tea gardens—one of the Pickwickian inns whence Mrs. Bardell was decoyed to town in charge of Messrs. Dodson and Fogg's clerk. But every road of Hampstead is charged with interesting memories. Here lived Blake, Linnell, Con-



'JACK STRAW'S CASTLE,' HAMPSTEAD

leads us to the handsome mansion and estate of a third, greater than either, Lord Mansfield—Caen Wood or Ken Wood. This fine and stately pile was built by one of the Adam brothers. No grounds near London are so inviting or rise and fall in such park-like undulations.

Close by are Dartmouth Hill, Crouch End, and Hornsea. On the summit of the Heath, close to the pond, will be noted a large dwelling-house and gardens, which bear all the evidence of being intruders on the common. An attractive actress, Mrs. Lessingham, desiring to have a cottage on the Heath, obtained a grant from the lord of the manor; but as this privilege could only be granted to copyholders, there was much litigation, which ended in favour of the lady. The old timbered "Hope Cottage," shown above, was once the abode of Blake.

On nearly every common round London we shall notice some

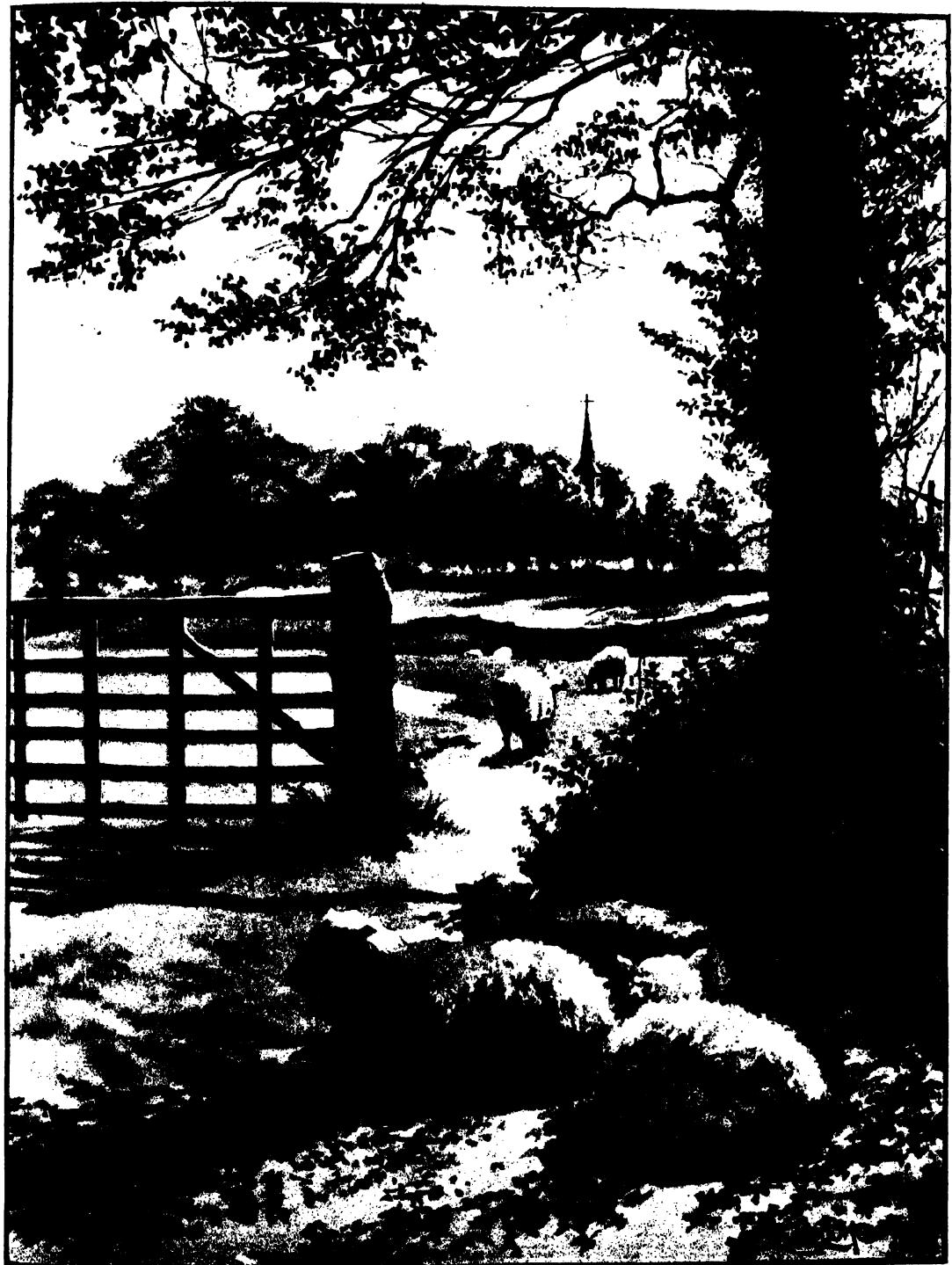
intruder of this kind, who has "squatted," as it is called, and has thus acquired a title from not being disturbed. The lawless character of these encroachments is inconceivable, and, but for the suddenly awakened vigilance of the public many years ago, there would now



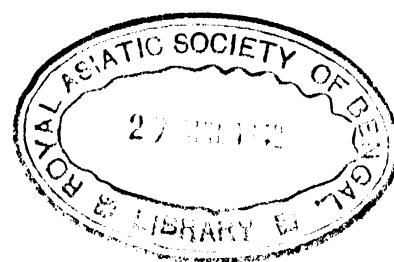
OLD COTTAGES, HAMPSTEAD



FROM DARTMOUTH PARK HILL.



KINGSBURY





PERRIN'S COURT, HAMPSTEAD

oppose. At Hampstead valiant efforts have been made not only to secure, but to add to, this inviting shape of public property.

One of the most delightful walks conceivable—health-improving too—leads round by Caen Wood to Highgate. The London traveller finds his affections divided between those two engaging places, and every visit enhances their charms. Here we find the Archway or

be scarcely any fragments even of common left. Some have completely disappeared, having been lawlessly enclosed and partitioned among neighbouring owners. A more insidious method was that of quiet encroachment, enlarging one's property by "taking in a strip" which was scarcely noticed, and which it was no one's particular business to



A CORNER ON HAMPSTEAD HEATH

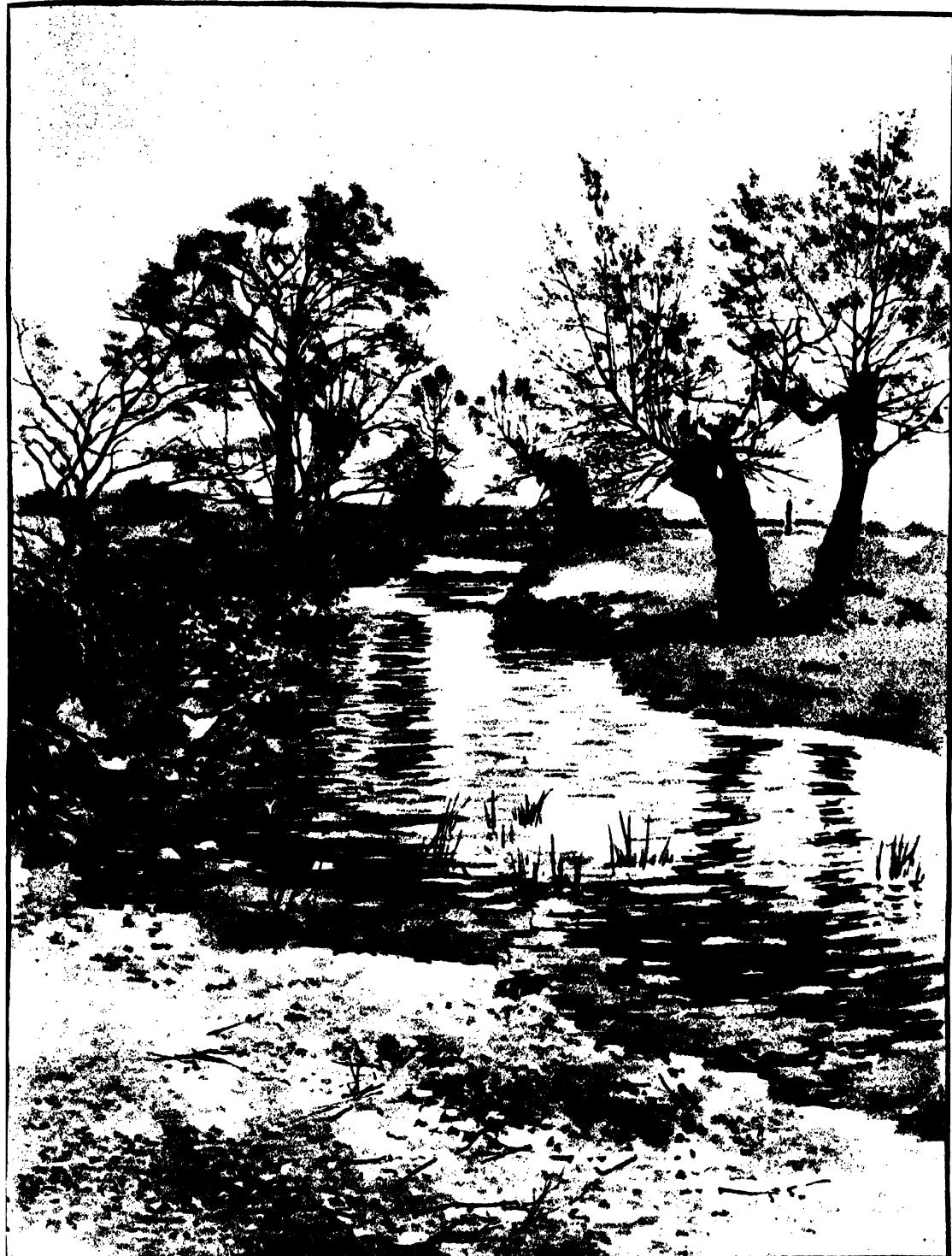


COTTAGE AT WEMBLEY

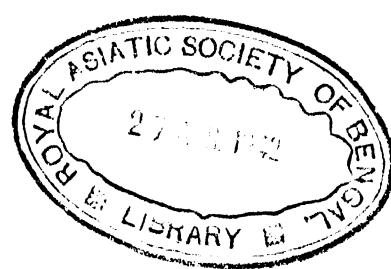
Viaduct, originally constructed by a company for profit, and with a view of abolishing the enormous steep and heart-breaking hill. A tunnel was first attempted, but it fell in. There is an agreeably old-fashioned sensation in the descent of Highgate Hill, offering, too, such a variety of attractions, as we shall now see. First we note the open high-road behind us, with the fine view towards Hampstead, the expanse of open country charged with inspiring breezes. On the right are



IN THE HIGHGATE ROAD, HIGHGATE



THE BRENT, KINGSBURY





IN FINSBURY PARK

a few quaint old mansions of ripe brick, each with its garden and trees and palings, and set down at all angles and picturesque irregularity.

Half-way down is the old inn, "The Horns," where up to the beginning of this reign a pair of horns fixed on a stick was brought out, and the traveller for a fee sworn that "he would never kiss the maid when he could the mistress," with other burlesque engagements. The candidate was prompted to add the proviso "unless he liked her better"—a solemnity that was common to other places.

Half-way up Highgate Hill is seen



MUSWELL HILL



ST. JAMES'S LANE, MUSWELL HILL.

terraces, with their occasional flights of steps, are quaint and pleasing, and the great attraction is the old house itself, with its "wattle-and-dab" walls, colonnade, and high roof, but in a sad state of decay. The old well-panelled hall is interesting, and there is the legend of Nell Gwynne's residence and Charles II.'s visits—all possibly mythical. This, it has been settled, is to be levelled, and a brand-new trim keeper's house to be erected in its room. This seems much more satisfactory to the Council or Committee which arranges such things. Such

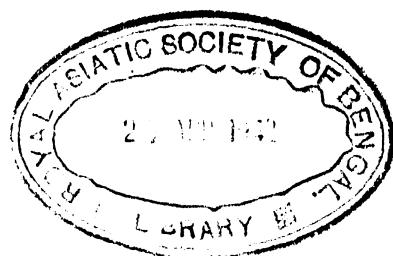
the very striking Byzantine Church of St. Joseph's Retreat, with its fine grounds and towering dome—a landmark seen afar off. Beside it are the interesting grounds of Lauderdale House, recently, through the generous action of Sir Sidney Waterlow, become a public park or garden. This is certainly the most attractive and original of all these enclosures, from its charming air of old fashion and variety; the mixture of wooding and grass and winding irregular walks. There is nothing of the trim, painful formality which usually distinguishes the regular people's park. The old



CROUCH END



THE BRENT, NEAR KINGSBURY





PARK HILL.

who have scarcely suspected the existence of what are known as the Highgate Woods. These are charmingly wild and rustic, full of paths and byways where the explorer may readily lose himself and fancy himself in some far-off forest. I shall never forget the delighted surprise I felt when first introduced to these attractive woods. The most interesting portion is oddly known as "Churchyard-Bottom Wood," which covers

are eager, always, to sweep away old remnants—a new structure of bright, raw brick with stone dressings is thought more satisfactory. Yet a few hundred pounds would put the old structure in substantial repair, whereas the new edifice will cost some two or three thousand pounds.

There are many, familiar with the conventional Highgate and Hampstead,



IN HIGHGATE WOOD

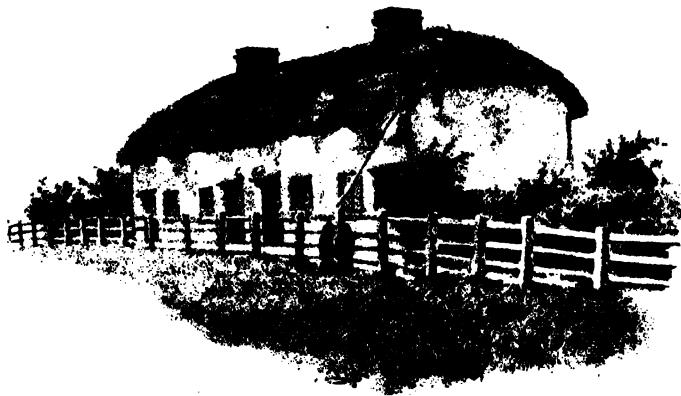
some fifty acres, and is wonderfully diversified in its character, being full of knolls and banks and hills, a rivulet winding through it. An observer tells us that he has often distinguished the notes of nightingales, with cuckoos and no less than fourteen species of birds, who live here unmolested. There is no sylvan walk to



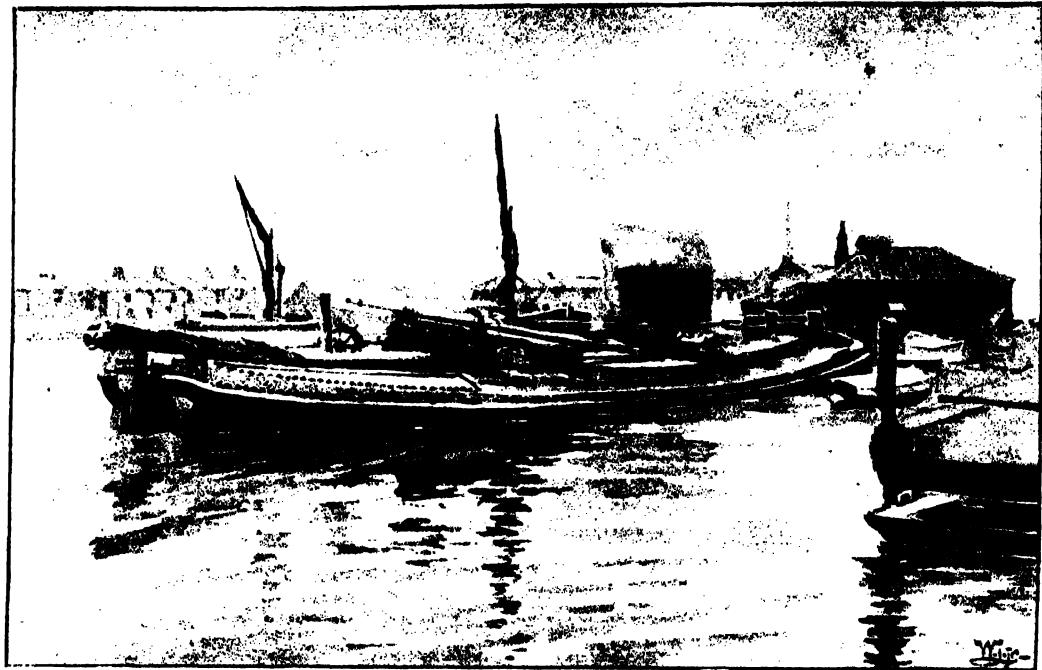
A LANE AT WEMBLEY

compare with it, save, perhaps, the famous Pickwickian one through Cobham. Emerging from these delightful woods, we can reach Muswell Hill, the site chosen for the disastrous Alexandra Palace, destroyed by fire on its completion ; opened and closed at intervals, and apparently destined to bring ruin on those who venture to repair its fortunes. Yet its park and grounds are pleasing enough, and of great extent. But the cause of its failure is found in the mean and squalid houses which encompass it and crowd up to its very gates, thus differing

from the Crystal Palace, which has a fair enticing country all around it and elegant villas. It is well-nigh forgotten now that the familiar Finsbury Park was once part of the Hornsey Woods, and that hard by was Highbury Barn dancing-gardens, as it were in the country, long since built over. Close by is Woodbury Down. Between Highgate and Harrow we find Wembley, a pretty and pastoral district, where an estate has recently been purchased by Sir E. Watkin, to be "developed" by the traffic of one of the suburban lines. The foundations of a new "Eiffel Tower" have been already laid on a lofty plateau, which, it is hoped, will presently be surrounded by villas and houses of the favourite pattern.



THATCHED COTTAGE, NEAR WEMBLEY



FROM LEA BRIDGE

CHAPTER V

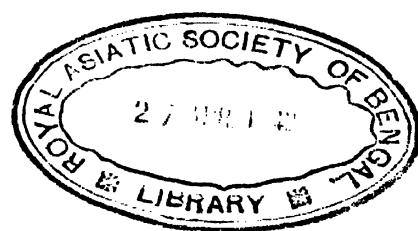
NORTH-EASTERN SUBURBS

Harrow Hill—The Barnets—Watford Walks—“The Black Avenue”—Willesden—“The Vale of Middlesex”—Northolt—Perivale—Kingsbury—Edgeware and Whitchurch—Canons and Wanstead—Epping Forest—Whitechapel and Stepney—Hackney Marshes.

TAKING the road northward from Hampstead, by Finchley, we make our way by an agreeable walk to the Barnets—Chipping Barnet, Friern Barnet, and East Barnet. At this place we come to a church, of vast antiquity, with old and modern additions, and approached by one of those always picturesque lych-gates, which displays the inscription—“High and low, rich and poor together.” The tower and the walls are almost invisible from the growth of masses of ivy. The village lies some half a mile away, in a sort of secluded valley. It boasts some



NORTHOLT





LONG STREET, BARNET

Avenue, and which is somewhere on the road to Rickmansworth, not very far from Watford—a portion of the road being completely arched over by huge trees uniting their matted branches overhead. Close to Watford—a rather quaint old town, which boasts an extraordinary

timbered cottages, and a curious antique Inn.

About Watford are found some of the most delightful and original country walks that can be conceived—such as that from Pinner. One of the strangest sensations is furnished by that promenade through what, I believe, is called the Black



ON PARLIAMENT HILL



number of inns, old and new, and of all sorts and conditions—is the fine Park of Cassiobury, which its generous owner throws open freely to the natives, who, of summer evenings, swarm in through its stately gates and enjoy as though it were their own. The well-rusted man-

sion, with its old-fashioned gardens, is seen in the distance. Delightful, too, is Bushey—where is Mr. Herkomer's house—with its rich placid greens—its good old church, and solemn churchyard. A most inviting spot for tranquillity and retirement.

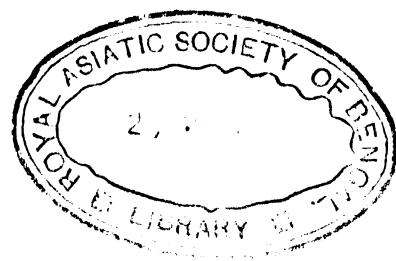
It is almost sad to think of the extent to which the fine old forest



SOUTHEND LANE



PERIVALE CHURCH AND BRENT RIVER



NORTH-EASTERN SUBURBS



CHURCH FARM, PERIVALE

foliage are seen some snug old mansions of the tiny Brent pursuing its winding course. There is the good old tower of the church, thickly covered with ivy and surrounded by fine trees, and here is buried the Poet of memory.

From Hampstead there is a gentle descent into the Brent valley, and a charming route along footpaths which lead down by the "Spaniards" in the direction of Hendon and its lake. The Brent river, like its companion the Wandle, adds a good deal to the

at Hornsey was cut up and spoliated. A portion is now Caen Wood; another portion is Bishop's Wood; and there is only one small fragment left in its original state, namely, the Highgate Woods. Hornsey village is a long, rather scattered street, and some fine old trees still line the road, behind whose sheltering Close by are seen glimpses



picturesqueness of all these scenes, as it makes its way in many meanderings to the Thames. Just as the green copper spire of Hampstead Church, capping the neighbouring height and peeping above its trees, seems to invite us cheerfully up Haverstock Hill and the other approaches, so does the familiar spire of Harrow Church, similarly perched, seem always significant and equally inviting. For many a Londoner, the idea of Harrow is of a famous school where Byron was; very far off—too remote to be accessible. He



A LANE IN SUDBURY



HORNSEY RISE

scarcely dreams that it is within an easy walk. Harrow and its spire are seen from many points, the centre of a delightful varied landscape. The range of Hampstead and Highgate Hills, it may be, bars the way, and your insouciant Londoner thinks it too troublesome a business. But how fair, how rustic, is all that lies round the place! And the town itself, with its colleges, and buildings, and 'villas, and gardens intermixed, how full of interest! It seems a half university—the lads in their odd straw hats and "tail coats" every-

where promenading it with their sisters, aunts, and possibly cousins. The view from the old churchyard—over vale and many a fair mead and wood—is, of course, one of the regular well-known “exhibition” views; but albeit hackneyed, and therefore exciting undue expectation, it has its charm. The traditions of the favourite Byron seat, with others, are duly fostered; but the impression left on a visit to the place is a most original one.

Not so many years ago, Willesden was a genuine rustic village in high favour with artists and pedestrians. It lies between Hampstead and Twyford, and is approached by pleasant lanes and paths. Word went forth, however, that here was to be “Willesden Junction,” the builders have rushed in, and it has become a sort of town. Close by are still found some charming bits; the prettily named Dollis Hill, with its trees, the drowsy, secluded Neasdon, the old village church, where there used to be enshrined an image of “Our Lady of Willesden.” Indeed the charming Harrow Road leads us on to many an attractive hamlet, by Endbury and Wembley,



OLD COTTAGE IN WILLESDEN LANE



WILLESDEN LANE, WILLESDEN

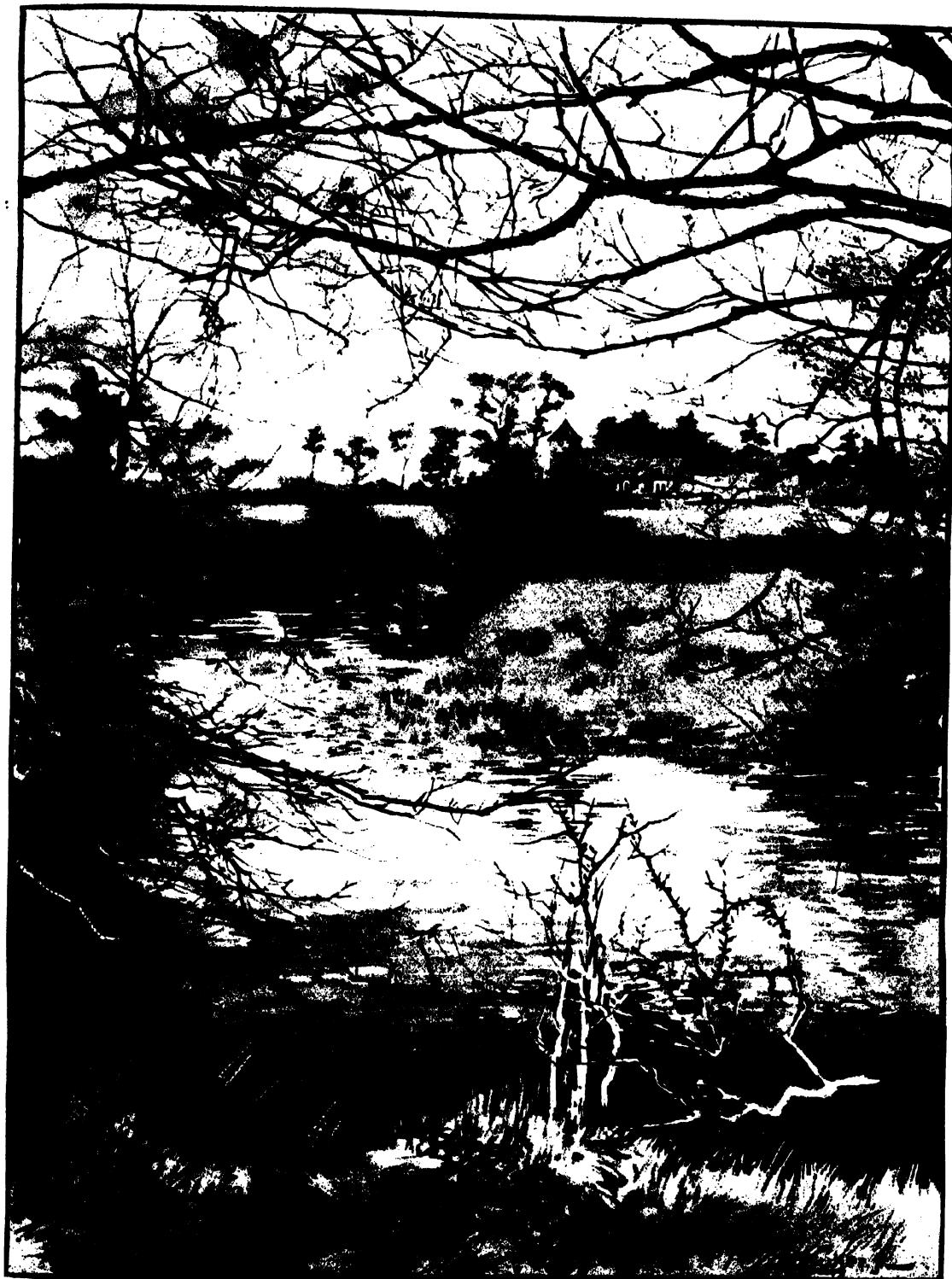
each with a special attraction of its own. It is a surprise indeed to find so many of these ancient churches so close to the great city. In the churchyard, Charles Reade—the closing days of whose life were sadly clouded—lies buried. Two miles away to the west is Twyford, with its green lanes, past which winds the Brent.

One of the most genuinely rural districts about London is the happily named "Vale of Middlesex," which lies to the south of Harrow. Nothing more tranquil or sequestered can be imagined; the few hamlets or villages seem to be forgotten by the noisy world without, and by the irrepressible "speculative" one. The walks and

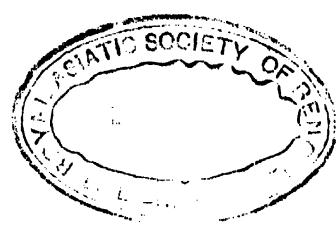
lanes are sylvan. The patterns of church found about here are of the oldest and most picturesque kind—long sloping tiled roofs, sinuous and bent with age, small spires, and a low porch. In this region we pass by many a delightful spot, where we are tempted to linger. Such is Northolt, with its old church. It is found in a sequestered, sleeping little village, to which lead winding lanes. It recalls some of these hamlets that lie close to Dorking. Here are the soft green lanes, on one side of which rises the old church, with its steep roof, bent like



HARROW ROAD, NEAR SUDBURY



IN THE MEADOWS, PERIVALE



an aged man's back, and its piquant spire in front. Round it is the pretty grassy graveyard, shaded by an old yew tree. On the other side are a few cottages and an inn. There is a simplicity and quietude about the whole place that is irresistible: an avenue of great elms leads away to another retired hamlet, Greenford, and offering the same charm of tranquil seclusion. Here is a rustic church, snoozing, as it were, in old-fashioned ease. One would be inclined to think that it was in scenes like these that Cattermole found subjects of old churches and villages with which he illustrated the *Old Curiosity Shop*. The unenquiring Londoner knows little of these charming retreats, which are at his hand, as it were, and within an easy walk. His theory is that he is walled in impenetrably by "thick-ribbed" houses, and that he cannot find pastoral life without undertaking a long railway expedition.

It may be urged, however, that these places can scarcely be considered within the range of "Suburban London." But they are



CRAVEN PARK, WILLESDEN



NICOL ROAD, WILLESDEN

clearly marked down for absorption as much as Hampstead and Norwood were. The process is prompt and speedy. One day the fair smiling place is found out and speedily covered with terraces and

buildings, and from that moment it begins to stretch its hands to the Metropolis, eager to join it. The latter sends out its tentacles in the same direction. The space between is soon covered. A magic process. So it may reasonably be said that all these favoured places are already suburbs *in posse*.

Indeed it is surprising what a number of antique churches of the pattern that Cattermole and the Christmas artists are so partial to are to be found on the way. The pretty Brent still shows itself occasionally. When we come within a mile or so of Ealing, we pass an

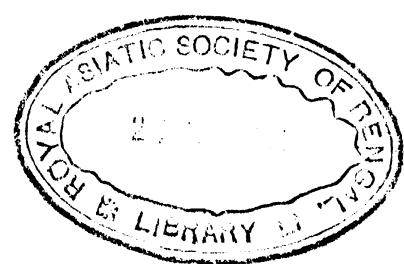


THE BRENT, NEAR TWYFORD

extraordinary decrepit little church, flanked by a very sylvan-looking vicarage, a framed and gabled house, surrounded by charmingly luxuriant gardens. This is Perivale, a sort of curio in the parish church way, claiming to be all but the smallest parish in England. It contains only five houses and under fifty inhabitants. On the roadside



WANSTEAD PARK





GREENFORD

at Ealing, hard by the church, we are attracted by the welcome music of the rooks. There they are in their high trees, busy as usual.

On the north-east side of Harrow Hill, we find yet another sylvan retreat, Kingsbury, which is of the same pattern as Northolt. A

charming picture it offers, with its "green" and few ancient cottages, and the verdant shade given by the avenue of old elms. From behind the trees peeps out the antique church, rusted and buffeted by the storms of centuries. The



FILLEBROOK TERRACE, LEYTONSTONE

whole is placidly tranquil, with a strange air of drowsy loneliness, and yet but six miles from London City! Here the pretty roaring Brent was interrupted about half-a-century ago to form a great reservoir, which by a happy compensation has become the haunt of wild fowl of the most varied kinds—snipe, ruffs, curlews, and their like. Anglers, too, resort hither and find excellent sport; and “The Welsh Harp” at Hendon affords the cockney welcome hospitality. Willesden is but a short walk distant, and not so long since offered attractions to the sketcher and the pedestrian; but, as we have just seen, the spoiler has come that way, and laid all waste—with his neat villas.

Field-lanes, stiles, and hedge paths lead from all sides directly to this Kingsbury village. Its old flint church, perched on a sort of knoll, is a venerable bit of old fashion, with its wooden lantern and spire. Some bells of bronze are shown, and there are monuments to servants of Queen Elizabeth and James I. In the walls are seen the old Roman bricks. As I have said, one does not anticipate meeting antiquities of this sort in a country walk. Close by Hendon there is, or used to be, pointed out an old white house called Hyde House Farm, whither poor Oliver Goldsmith used to retire when



A LANE AT LEYTONSTONE



PERIVALE CHURCH

Grinling. More interesting still, the organ is pointed out as the one on which Handel performed for three years. Nay, he had here directed a choir of 120 performers every Sunday, and which was on the scale of a Chapel Royal. There are grand monuments, the figures of life size; there is gilding and rich decoration everywhere. What is the secret, it will be asked, of this mysterious church? But there is more to come. In the churchyard is the memorial to one W. Powell, who is described as the original "Harmonious Blacksmith." And there was a tradition that a horse-shoeing forge in the village was the "very identical

he wished to write in peace and undisturbed by bailiffs; and here the inquisitive Boswell found him out, and took note of his memorandum scribbled on the wall.

From Kingsbury to Edgeware is a short walk, and close to Edgeware is the old Whitchurch Church, an ordinary country parish church. Entering it, we are dazzled by elaborate paintings on the ceilings and walls--the work, we are assured, of the great mural artists, Laguerre and others. There are lavish carvings finely wrought, and said to be the work of the eternal (and Briarean)



SOUTH EALING

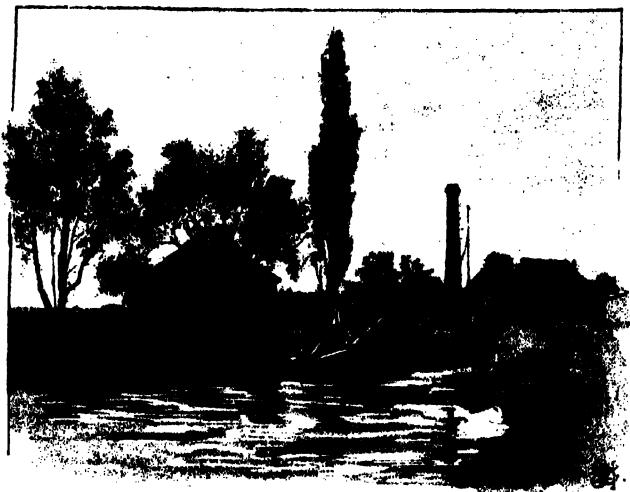


BOW ROAD, BOW

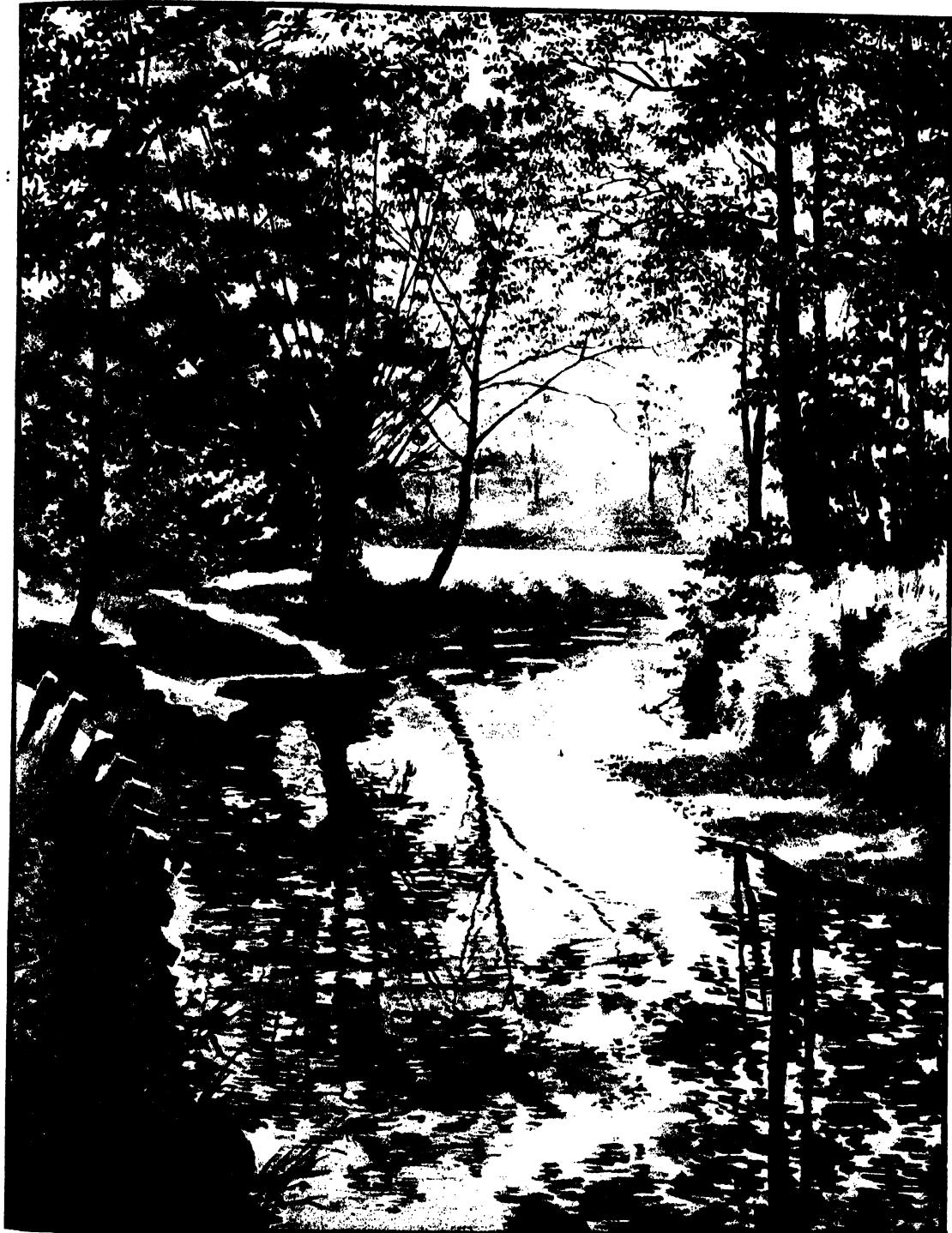
town is familiar enough, but not every one knows that it is perhaps the straightest road of its length in the kingdom, and is prolonged from the Marble Arch to Edgeware, some two or three miles from Kingsbury, a distance of some twelve miles, traced with a mathematical precision. It touches some pleasant spots—Crickelwood, the Brent reservoir, and Kingsbury, Stanmore, and other places. This was indeed the old Roman way known as Watling Street. No more curious story attached to Suburban London is to be found than that connected with the park of Canons, which is close by. It is one of the "curios" which we can pick up even in these rural districts. It is indeed a strange one. The Duke of Chandos, who was one Brydges, a paymaster to the army in Queen Anne's reign,

one" where the great German heard the musical strokes. This was to be expected, the demand creating the supply. Some ten or twelve years ago the actual anvil (!) was sold by auction in London. And again it will be asked what place is this? It was the Parish Church of Canons, and the story is a curious one.

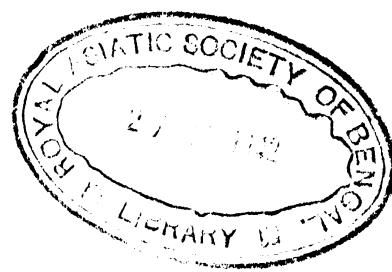
The "Edgeware Road" in



NEAR LEA BRIDGE



RIVER RODING, FROM WANSTEAD PARK





OLD BRIDGE AT BRENTFORD

view of two fronts joined into one, the distance not permitting you to see the angle that was in the centre, so you were agreeably deceived into the opinion that the front of the house was twice as large as it really was. And yet, on approaching nearer, you were again surprised by perceiving a winding passage, opening, as it were, a new front to the eye of near one hundred and twenty feet wide, which you imagined not to have seen before." Thus quaint old Dodsley. The grounds and gardens had canals and ponds. The great saloon was painted by Paolucci and the stucco and gilding were by the famous Italian Pergotti. The columns and staircase were of marble, and each step of the grand stair was in one whole piece twenty-two feet long. All this state and grandeur, we are told, came to an ignominious end. The splendid

had amassed a vast fortune, and determined to build what should be one of the most magnificent palaces not in England merely, but in all Europe. At the end of one of the streets in Edgeware we can see one of the gates of the park. "The avenue was spacious, and as it afforded you the



HIGH STREET, LEYTON

palace was offered, but found no purchaser, for there was no purchaser with means sufficient to keep it up. The fountains and curios were then sold, and the stately building pitilessly razed to the ground. Not one stone was left on another. To supply the final degrading touch, we are told, "the land whercon this structure was erected was lately purchased by one Hallet, an eminent cabinetmaker, who acquired a large fortune in that business, and *he has built an elegant small house* upon the ruins of the Duke of Chandos's large and magnificent seat." "Weigh Hannibal" indeed!

There is, as a pendant to this wretched tale that of Wanstead and the Tylneys, a family almost as magnificent as the Chandos family. The wealth of the Childs—a great banking family—had all descended to an heiress, who was sought by all sorts and conditions of suitors, among whom was even the Duke of Clarence. A wasteful spendthrift, Wellesley Pole, unattractive in every way, succeeded in carrying off the prize. Wanstead was considered one of the palaces of Europe—a superb pile, vast in extent, ambitious in its architecture. It was situated near Chigwell, in the Epping Forest. In due course the spendthrift had squandered to the last shilling. The heiress was left destitute. Like Canons, it was razed to the ground, not a stone being left. A curious incident was that some



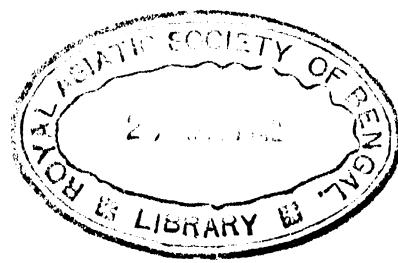
HIGH STREET, BROMLEY

of its splendid pillars had been brought from Canons on the destruction of that pile. These things are interesting to know, and add piquancy to a country walk; to "the general" they are unfamiliar.

It is astonishing to think that within five miles or so



EPPING FOREST AT SNARESBROOK



of London are two great forests, Epping and Hainault, offering pleasant promenades and a delightful variety of sylvan scenery. We are too apt to think cheaply of scenes like this, which are associated with "Bank Holiday" revelry, and appear to be the special property of the "vulgar herd"; but this cockney appreciation may be accepted as a test of merit. A day in these forests would furnish a welcome surprise and pleasant entertainment even to "superior" or self-denying persons. At Chingford, in spite of the modern-antique inn and the waiting donkeys, there is something very inviting in the forest vistas, where the visitor is at once tempted to go and wander and lose himself. Not far away is the picturesque Chigwell, welcome to the Dickensian, where was old Joe Willet's inn. Here, too, on the Epping Road is Leyton with its market gardens. It is melancholy to think that so lately as the beginning of the century these two great forests covered over fifty thousand acres, which by long-continued "pickings and stealings" and enclosures have been reduced to some four or five thousand! The history of the spoliation of commons would be an extraordinary one, and form a story of shameless, impudent robbery. We must be thankful, however, that even this remnant has been saved.

Close to Epping Forest are some inviting retreats—such as Snaresbrook—which many years ago was the home of many curious birds, and even herds of deer, which fell a sacrifice to the enclosures. The old village is still there in which stand a few country houses. Another



SKINNERS COMPANY'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, STAMFORD HILL

of these Epping outskirts is Leytonstone, which displays numerous "neat villas" of correct pattern.

The long stretch of road which leads out of London by Whitechapel and Bow offers some interesting surprises. Thus we pass through Whitechapel of a market-day, to find the whole street up and down



LOOKING ACROSS LONDON, GREENWICH PARK

quite blocked up by the enormous waggons and carts of compressed hay offered for sale; while rustics in smocks stand round—the whole suggesting a busy country town. In the broad Whitechapel Road we see the old and the new side by side; spacious marts next to old tiled "hunched" houses; a highly picturesque square of almshouses, somewhat suggesting the condemned Emmanuel Hospital at Westminster. On the right, not far from "the People's Palace," a by-street leads down to Stepney Green—a really welcome bit of *rus in urbe*—a long



LEYTONSTONE--EVENING



strip of grassy enclosure, clumsily railed in, but lined by houses of every pattern and age ; some grimy and mouldering, some modern and new, some huddled together, but all with a sort of forlorn and abandoned air. One house—the Jewish Schools—nearly two centuries old, is picturesque and effective, and in the soundest condition, with its carved eaves and shell-shaped door, fine ironwork gate, and old garden in front. Beyond the Green we emerge on a rustic-looking road, and pass by the Vicarage, in its pleasant walled garden; while farther on to the right we come to the fine old church standing in its luxuriant churchyard, now a public garden, with trees and rich grass, and something like a close round it—a very tranquil, inviting spot indeed. It might seem a country church. Returning to the Whitechapel Road, we wander on still farther until we reach Mile End and the Bow Road, lined on one side with comfortable villas, each of which boasts a couple of good old trees in its front. And here, in the centre of the roadway, is another old church and tower, with a much bent tiled roof, an odd thing to meet with in a suburban town. All these contrasts are pleasant and strike us with a sort of pleased surprise.

The Londoner who would



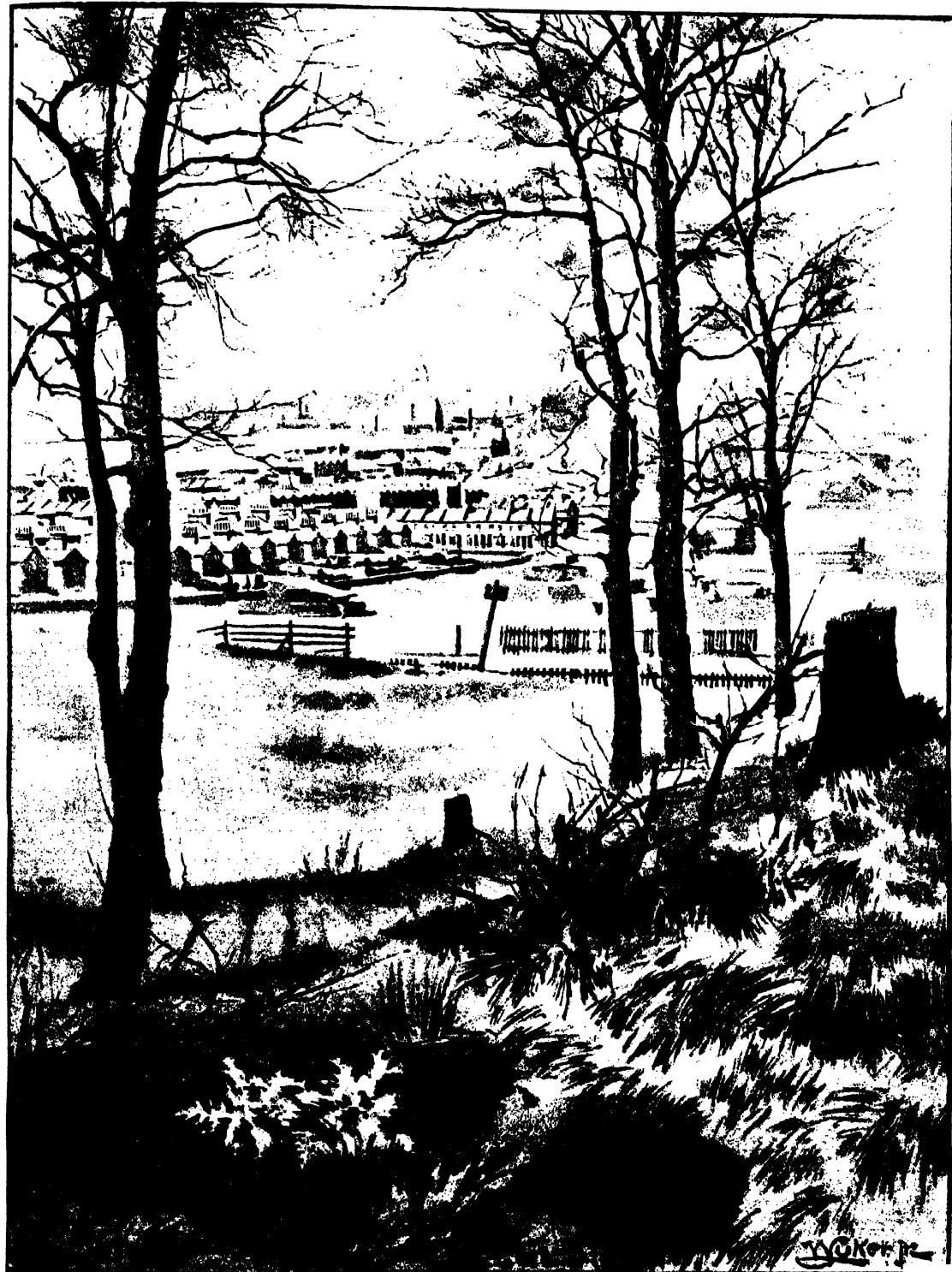
LOOKING ACROSS THE ISLE OF DOGS FROM GREENWICH PARK



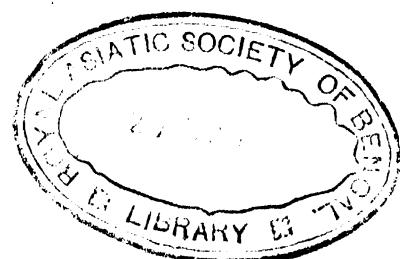
NAVAL SCHOOL CHAPEL, NEW CROSS

wish to enjoy something very original in the way of exploration or discovery might set out for the north-eastern quarter of the city—to the Hackney district—where he will find much that is new, curious, and entertaining. The station of Hackney Downs is little more than a quarter of an hour's journey from the busy and crowded Liverpool Street, and only a few minutes away from Bethnal Green and Whitechapel. Here he will find the interesting old-fashioned Hackney, most quaint of the London suburban districts, very

much of the pattern of some remote town such as Folkestone, with its narrow straggling streets full of old red-brick houses, tiled roofs, gardens, tramcars, glimpses of "downs" and commons, and patches of green revealing themselves at sudden openings: with the modern shops built over the old gardens in front of the houses. These, with all their modern methods, supply an animation and picturesque variety. Here are churches and buildings of the pattern that was in fashion a century ago, of a highly respectable *bourgeois* cast and *passé* enough, and on that account offering a sort of interest. The street bends and winds; there is plenty of traffic. It seems like market-day in the High Street of a country town—there are the carriages of the residents, who have villas and gardens that are found on the rural-looking roads. There are pleasing bits of antiquity too. What more welcome, for instance, than the grey mouldering tower of the old church, that was pulled down, I suppose, a century ago, and replaced



TELEGRAPH HILL, NEW CROSS





POND ON BLACKHEATH

busy street and passing tramcars below it. tavern, in a recess pierced with an archway which leads into another street, its roof much bent and straggling—a goodly subject for an artist.

We relish also the stately Town Hall, a well-designed structure with an antique air, somewhat suggesting such a building in Belgium. These edifices give a local character and feeling of *autonomy* to the districts, and one always welcomes them with satisfaction.

Hackney offers this oddity, that it seems to be cut off from the world beyond, and "leads nowhere," the marshes interposing. It joins Clapton and Lea Bridge. Clapton has its own attraction in some very effective little Almshouses, with a modern chapel attached at the top of a flight of steps,

by a spacious structure with a newer tower? The interior rather suggests a concert-room, and the altar is oddly placed on the left of the entrance. This old sad-looking tower stands in the crowded churchyard, where, it would appear from the dates of the tombstones, interments still go on. It looks down on the

THE GOLDSMITH COMPANY'S TECHNICAL AND CREATIVE INSTITUTE,
NEW CROSS

quite in the spirit of the old work; a little enclosed green, known as "The Triangle" from its shape, close by; and some good old "Queen Anne" houses, one about the best that I have seen. The comparatively modern church of St. John of Jerusalem, built many years ago, before the modern revival, is a very striking piece of work, from its fine lines and cathedral-like spaciousness. But it seems to be suffering from that mysterious decay which preys on so many of the modern churches, so that in forty or fifty years it will have

acquired a properly ruined air. Everywhere, as I have said, there are gardens, or trees, or glimpses of grass and country—blended together with an Islington-like bustle of shopping and general traffic—it seems to hint to us that we are on the verge of the country, and so it proves. For we



VANBRUGH PARK, BLACKHEATH COMMON

know that beyond Hackney town stretches away that solemn and awe-inspiring belt of waste land known as The Marshes. This mysterious tract has a strange interest, and everywhere betrays its origin. On passing out of the town we see the expanse of tranquil moorland spreading out before us. It has a sombre melancholy tone, suggesting those flat and rather dismal prairies we see in Belgium or Holland. A few little *bosquets* and scattered trees dot the landscape here and there, while a meagre canal winds across it, and a horse is seen tugging a boat along. No houses are to be seen, save perhaps two or three dotted about afar off, a snowy white one or a red-tiled roof contrasting with the green. These marshes, as I

have said, make a complete barrier from Hackney town in the northern direction, and there is no public issue across it. The high-roads have to be sought a long way round, by the right and left, by Lea Bridge. There is, indeed, a private road across the marshes, but the explorer has to pass through barriers, and beside a not unpicturesque inn, where toll is demanded. It is curious to think of there being still a close to London, singular and every point of

The vicinity little river the traction. There tery connected winding stream, described as "pol- furnishes a large to the New River in the highest men and fisher- boats can barely so narrow is the it is always crowded. After these sylvan rambles we flit back once more to town. All this suburban region is almost equally attractive. Directing our steps eastward, we might linger at Edmonton and Enfield, where the amateur of old brick houses and ancient gardens and fine ironwork will find abundance to his taste. Between Edmonton and Stamford Hill we find the straggling Tottenham, which once had quite a rural air, but is now crowded over with "middle-class" dwellings. And Eltham, what a surprise! how original the impression left upon us! Apart from

turnpike road so But the place is *bizarre* from view.

of that curious Lea adds an at- is a sort of mys- with this little which is often luted," and yet quantity of water Company. It is favour with oars- men, though the pass each other, little canal; but



VANBRUGH CASTLE, BLACKHEATH

the rural beauties of the place—the ancient trees lining the roadside, the striking-looking houses—there is the ruined palace, the banqueting hall with its finely traced windows and marvellous open roof, its moat and bridge. But we should require space to deal even superficially with these tempting places. I have merely indicated some choice specimens : there is much more that will repay the explorer.



RIVER LEA, HACKNEY MARSH





WIMBLEDON COMMON



WIMBLEDON PARK LAKE

CHAPTER VI

LONDON SOUTHERN SUBURBS

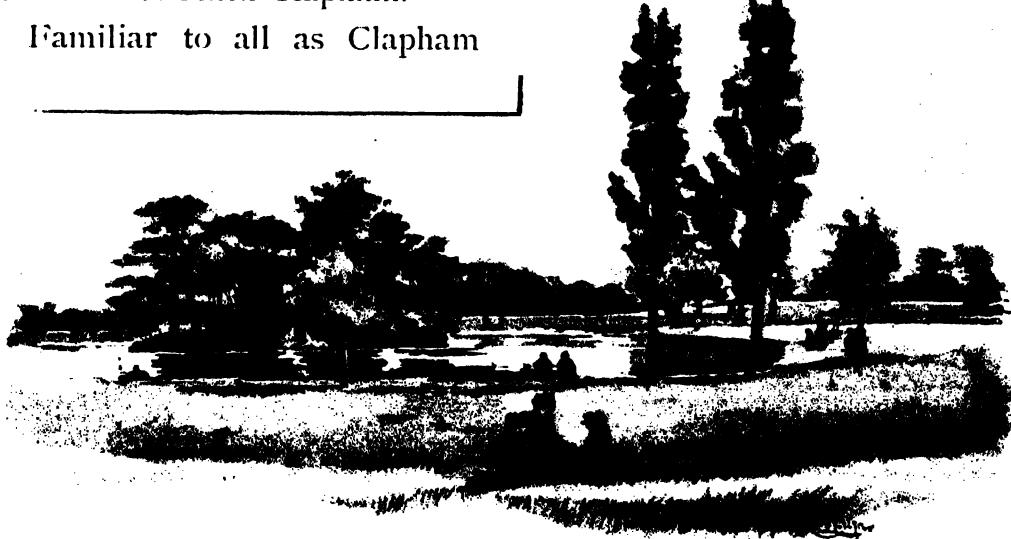
Clapham—Wimbledon and Putney—Denmark Hill and Dulwich—“The Palace”—Greenwich—Vanbrugh Castle and Morden College.

TAKING our way southwards, across Westminster Bridge, into the busy tramway land on the other side, we find ourselves following long lines or avenues of a dispiriting character. These lead to Greenwich, to Brixton and Clapham. The welcome jingling of the bells and the metrical “clack-clack” of the horses’ hoofs supply life and bustle for the poor squalid workers of the districts.

Nothing gives such an idea of the hopeless monotony of certain portions of London as the routes by the Old Kent Road and West-

minster Bridge Road, that lead to Camberwell, Clapham, Greenwich, etc. Long rows of grim, shabby-looking houses—there are cast-off or "second-hand" houses, like cast-off clothes—line these dismal avenues, which seem interminable. Nothing is so curious as the contrast between these southerly "fringes" of the great city and the corresponding outskirts on the northern side. That of Westminster Bridge suddenly emerges into a bright suburb at Kennington, where the equally monotonous, but more cheerful, Clapham Road runs on, a straight road, for some miles. Some years ago, the old "Horns Assembly Rooms," now replaced by a modern Concert Hall, lent an air of decayed old fashion to the place. In the High Street there are some good old houses, and there is the "common," now made trim and square and fashioned into a public garden. The traveller who would not encounter the monotony of the protracted but cheerful Clapham Road, can find a pleasing diversity by diving into the bowels of the earth, through the agency of a lift, and taking the electric railway to Stockwell—a curious experience. Indeed he can make choice of steam, omnibus, tramcar, cab, or electric line to reach Clapham.

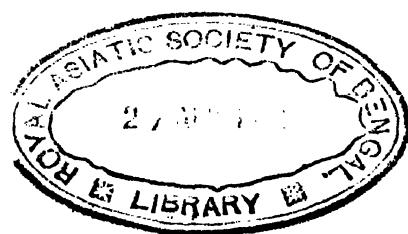
Familiar to all as Clapham



POND ON CLAPHAM COMMON



CRYSTAL PALACE FROM WIMBLEDON PARK





"THE HORNS," KENNINGTON

and be buried in their beloved suburb. It is a great occasion when they "go to town." In this pleasant indifference they might seem to suggest the worthy citizens of Mechlin, who protested against the railway being brought near to their antique city, and whose wish was complied with, to their own detriment.

On the fringe of the Common, and notably at Battersea Rise, are seen substantial mansions, with their grounds and gardens, tenanted by "well-to-do" gentry, who have a society of their own, "keep their carriages," and give dinner-parties now and again. The confectioners in "The Pavement" have often a busy time of it: "send out dinners" and equip parties in London fashion. It

is, with its Common and old houses, it still offers an attraction that is scarcely sufficiently recognised. Close as it is to the great city, it can be reached from Battersea Park in about a quarter of an hour. It has really an inviting air of rusticity. The natives, too, seem to be rustic in their way. There are Claphamites who would never ask to leave its placid precincts; their tastes are simple and pastoral. We have heard the sneer "a Claphamite order of mind," which may betoken a compliment. Some would ask to live and die



OLD HOUSES, HIGH STREET, KENNINGTON

seems like some thriving country town. There are concerts, and a "Philharmonic Society," lectures, readings, string quartetts *galore*. And yet London is but twenty minutes away. The air is restoring, and especially welcome to the smoke-dried lungs of the "jaded Londoner"; indeed the wholesome breezes

sweep from Wimbledon and Putney Heath on the west, and thus the Claphamite stands on a plateau far above the great city, and there is nothing between him and Brighton.

On the Common, at "North Side," erst "Church Buildings," is a very piquant row of "Queen Anne Mansions," which are really picturesque



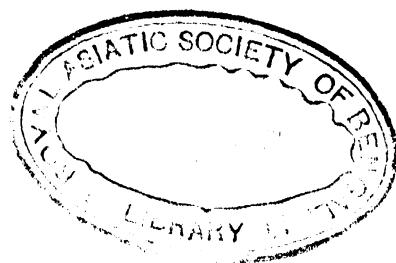
BOWLING GREEN HOUSE, PUTNEY HEATH



IN THE GROUNDS OF WIMBLEDON HOUSE, WIMBLEDON



MITCHAM





WIMBLETON

foreign, with which the enclosure in front is laid out, forming a "fore court," or little enclosure, with a kind of terrace. In the ironwork of the gates, simple as it is, there is a delicate touch: witness a specimen or two of twisted work, with a helmet and shield. The little gardens in front have a sort of Dutch grace, and in those behind there is a luxuriance and wildness that is extraordinary. Here fruits grow abundantly, and in front of some houses are trained vines, which bear well.

Within there is much that is piquant and attractive. All is panelled, and quaintly disposed with that air of spaciousness which a good architectural artist used to have the secret of imparting to a small house. Witness Ashleigh—a "poor thing, but mine own,"—there is a *pliant* drawing-room, all panelled round as if in satin-wood,



N.E. CORNER OF CLAPHAM COMMON

and effective, from their mellowed red tint, well rusted over, carved doorways, twisted ironwork, and old gardens. These houses date from the year 1713, and some two or three, it is said, were the work of Sir C. Wren. These are Nos. 13 and 16. We may note the antique grace, almost



ROEHAMPTON

verdant hills, crowned by the Crystal Palace.

The next-door house, Thornleigh, boasts a fine well-stair, with dark twisted balusters of imposing and monumental effect. Behind, a fair garden spreads away down to a pretty tennis-ground, separated by a hedge from the pleasant Vicarage gardens. This house has good traditions. At the back is an old-fashioned building whose stair leads up, like a companion ladder, into a spacious room with a carved ceiling. The children of the house now use it as a schoolroom; but towards the beginning of the century a very distinguished man was taught in this very room. For, one of the traditions of Clapham is the memory of the childhood of Lord Macaulay, which was spent here. The house in question was tenanted by a schoolmaster named Greaves, and the schoolroom

the chimney being placed cornerwise, which has a novel and graceful effect. There are corner cupboards with delicate mouldings and carvings. Every room has *character*. From the windows there is a charming view, quite "park-like," of abundant trees and spreading country, with afar off a glimpse of the distant



WINDSOR STREET, PUTNEY

was added to by that well-known knot of philanthropists, "the Clapham Sect": Zachary Macaulay, who lived in, or on, "The Pavement," Henry Thornton, Lord Teignmouth, Wilberforce, and others, who were all deeply interested in the slave question. They had devised a scheme for bringing over young negroes and educating them here. This, however, failed.¹ Sir Charles Trevelyan,



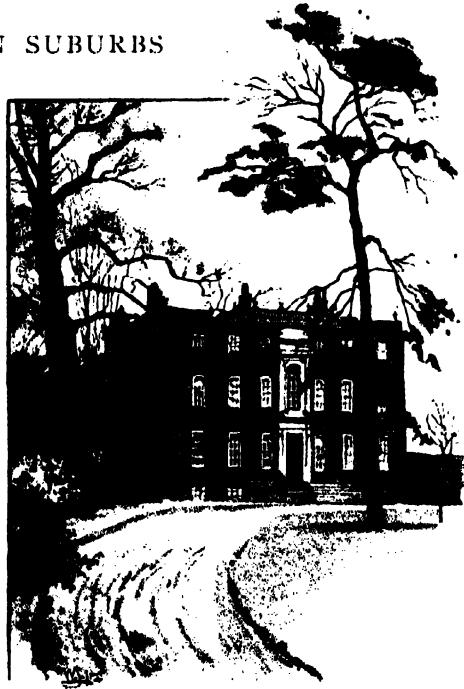
WANDLE, BEDDINGTON

brother-in-law of the historian, also had a house on the Common. And so lately as 1885, Miss Fanny Macaulay, his sister, took up her abode in Mr. Greaves's old home, it was said not knowing that her great brother had been "schooled" there. Wilberforce's house was Broomwood, and here the great Bishop of the name was born. Lord Teignmouth's house is now a monastery—a quaint,

¹ Mr. Robertson, the owner of Thornleigh, has placed in the schoolroom a framed description setting forth these interesting facts.

sound old mansion with a cupola and dormer windows, vast gardens and grounds spreading away behind—a Naboth's vineyard, hugely coveted by the professors of "jerry" work.

But Clapham has other traditions, some no doubt apocryphal enough. The natives will have it that Captain Cook, the navigator, had a house here, and there is said to be a tree on the Common known as "Cook's Tree." But there seems to be no foundation for the legend. Mrs. Cook, however, lived and died here. But the great glory of the place is the worthy Samuel Pepys, who was fond of it, and lived in a fine house in the south side of the Chase, which has been long since levelled. On Battersea Rise, now the west side of the Chase, was Mr. Henry Thornton's house, a great resort of "the saints" and of pious and political persons who were interested in the slaves. Pitt, Hannah More, Sir Walter Scott, Wilberforce, and others, found their way here. In one wing is an oval-shaped saloon said to have been designed by the great Minister himself. The house is still inhabited by the Thornton family, which again suggests, what is so often forgotten, that there are "country gentlemen" living all round London, and that there is a



OLD HOUSE IN ROEHAMPTON LANE



"KING'S HEAD," ROEHAMPTON



MITCHAM COMMON



sort of country life going on in the suburbs. "The Elms," it is said, either the existing "Elms" or an older one, once belonged to the Quaker family of Barclays, descendants of the author of *The Apology*, and purchasers of Thrale's Brewery—another "serious" and placid tradition.

Not many years ago was standing "The Cedars," a fine old family mansion, said to have been built by Sir Christopher. Two substantial "manor-house" looking edifices form now a convent. A doctor thrives in another antique edifice. Perhaps it is the abundance of these



ON BRIXTON HILL.



WORCESTER PARK

associations—"Saints," Quakers, Methodists, Nuns, Monks, and seminaries—that imparts its tranquil secluded tone to the old place. A few years ago there was standing on the south side of the Common,

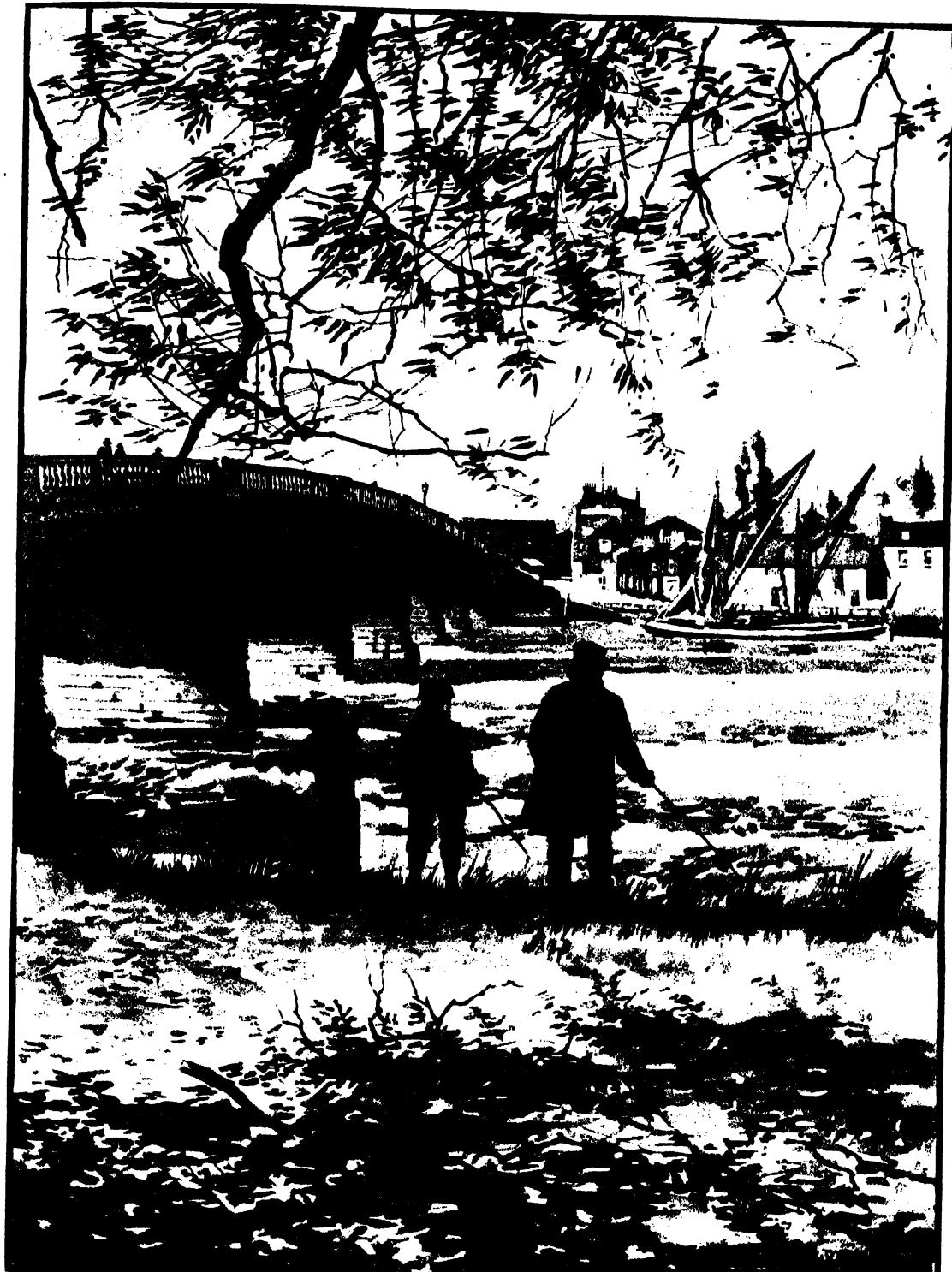
by Windmill Road, a very fine, well-designed mansion—a yellow central block—its "offices" forming wings and united to it. It was roomy and stately in front, and behind were fine gardens and grounds. This was formerly the abode of "Single-speech" Hamilton. But the speculative builder came that way, saw that it suited his purposes admirably, levelled the whole, and covered the property with terraces of houses. The lover of the picturesque grows sad over such devastations.

On the west side is a house in which Cavendish, the philosopher, actually *weighed* the earth and ascertained its density. Modest as the house

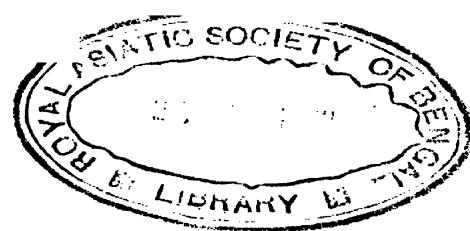
is, its owner is said to have left behind him a million of money. Many of these good old mansions have a curious semicircular lawn between their gates and the road; the shape marked out by a semicircular row of white posts and chains, and often by a sunk fence. This lends a quaint old-fashioned effect. Indeed all over Clapham are found



OLD MILL AT BRIXTON



KEW BRIDGE





RALEIGH HOUSE, BRIXTON

notes and tokens of old fashion which are very welcome in these days of modern uniformity; and such names as "The Pavement," "*The Sweep*," "The Elms," "The Cedars," "The Rise," "Church Buildings" (as it used to be, beshrew "North Side"!) favour, and flavour too, the antique tone. In the picturesque "Church Buildings" every house has a character of its own. Note, for instance, Clarence House with its range of crowded windows. Here was Tom Hood put to school, and we may even now recognise it by his song, "Its ugly windows, ten in a row." To this hour Clapham abounds in schools or "educational establishments" for young ladies and young gentlemen. This is owing, perhaps, to its quiet retirement and to the salubrity of the air. We have dwelt at some length on this interesting portion of "Suburban London" with the view of illustrating what was laid down in the opening pages of this work—viz. that every suburb has "a note," tone, or distinct attraction of its own, which it will be found worth while to study. A little practice will soon enable us

THE GREYHOUND INN, DULWICH



to pierce below what is merely on the surface, with the result of increasing our sense of enjoyment as we wander among these pleasant and, it may be, familiar scenes.

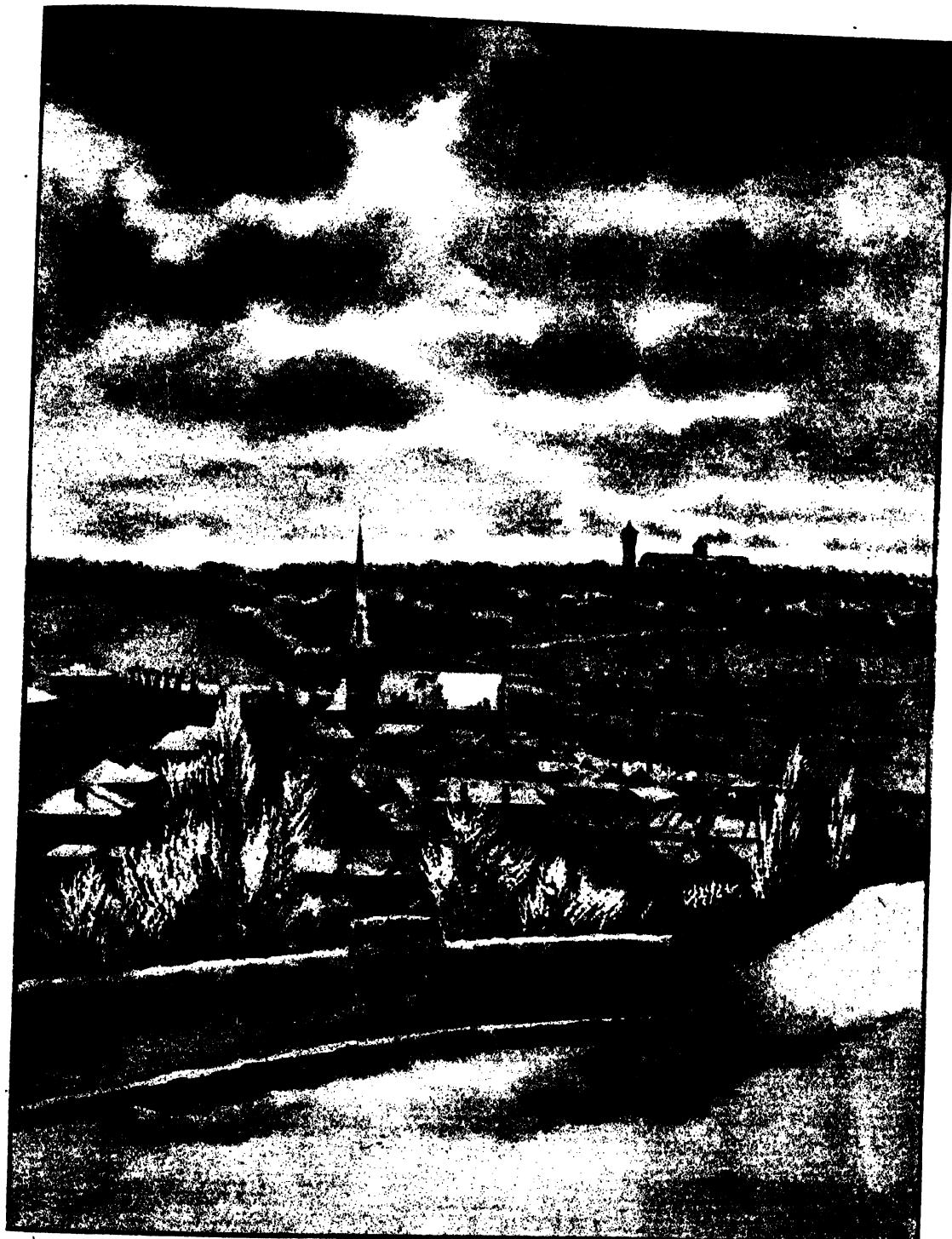
From Clapham we take our way on to Wimbledon, a fine, breezy

expanse—the true open country—which has suffered little from the builder. By and by oldest inhabitants will be recalling the days of the annual rifle contest and the busy encampment, with its railways, tents, and houses, which all sprang up in a night, and when, for a week only, there was a ceaseless “popping” of musketry. The common has quite a “park-like” air from its vast extent, regularity, and fine old trees. The approaches are pleasing, and a well-shaded, sylvan avenue or “green lane” leads out of it at the northern extremity by a picturesque old inn called “The Crooked Billet.” Wimbledon is justly considered the finest, most

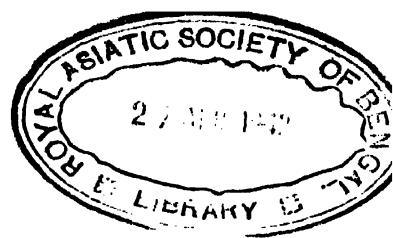


LINDEN GROVE, PECKHAM RYE

spacious, healthful, and picturesque of the London commons. There is a grandeur with a sort of state about it; it is garnished, too, with imposing residences—country houses rather—which have their grounds and gardens, and moreover enjoy the matchless air that sweeps across



CRYSTAL PALACE FROM DAWSON'S HILL



the open plain. The Spencer family is associated in an interesting way with Wimbledon. At their old manor house, long since pulled down, Queen Elizabeth was entertained by Lord Burghley. Later the place belonged to Queen Henrietta Maria, and her ill-fated consort was partial to it. We next find it in possession of Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, who left it to one of the Spencers; but the park, which extended to twelve hundred acres, was sold by Lord Althorpe in 1836, and the manorial rights were finally disposed of in 1871. The extraordinary increase in the value of land in this part of the country would have put the present holder of the title in possession of an enormous fortune. There are other interesting names associated with Wimbledon. Calonne, the French financier,

KENNEL HILL, EAST DULWICH



purchased a house here, and Cannizaro—a few years ago celebrated for its "open air" or "pastoral plays," a fad of the time—was formerly occupied by Lord Melville. Horne Tooke, Lady Anne Barnard of "Auld Robin Gray" celebrity, Gifford, the "slashing"



DULWICH COLLEGE AND CHAPEL



PECKHAM RYE—WAITING FOR CUSTOMERS

critic, and the ill-tempered, impracticable Lord Durham, also resided here. Like Putney Heath and Battersea Fields, the common was in high favour as a rendezvous for duels.

The land about Wimbledon is rich and green and well furnished with trees. There are fine enclosed places, scattered about, with an abundance of sylvan-looking lanes lined with villas not too crowded together.

Putney Heath, 400 acres in extent, has many original charms of its own, and is so named with perfect propriety;



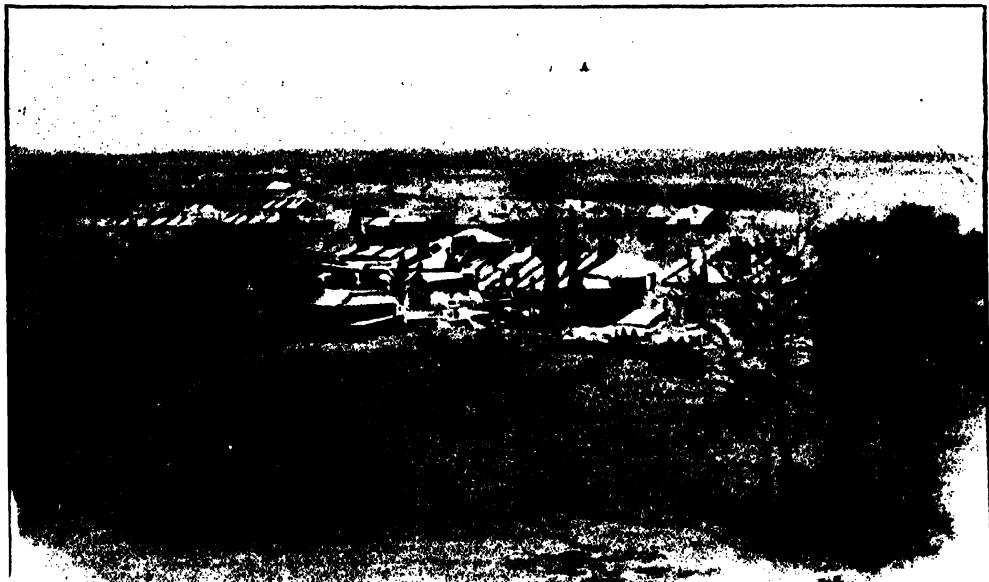
DENMARK HILL.



IN THE ANERLEY ROAD, NEAR CRYSTAL PALACE

for there is all the fresh wildness and irregularity of the heath about it; it rises and sinks in pleasant undulations, and is well furnished with mosses and gorse. Nowhere near London is the air more fresh, or reviving. The Londoner who on a Sunday comes down

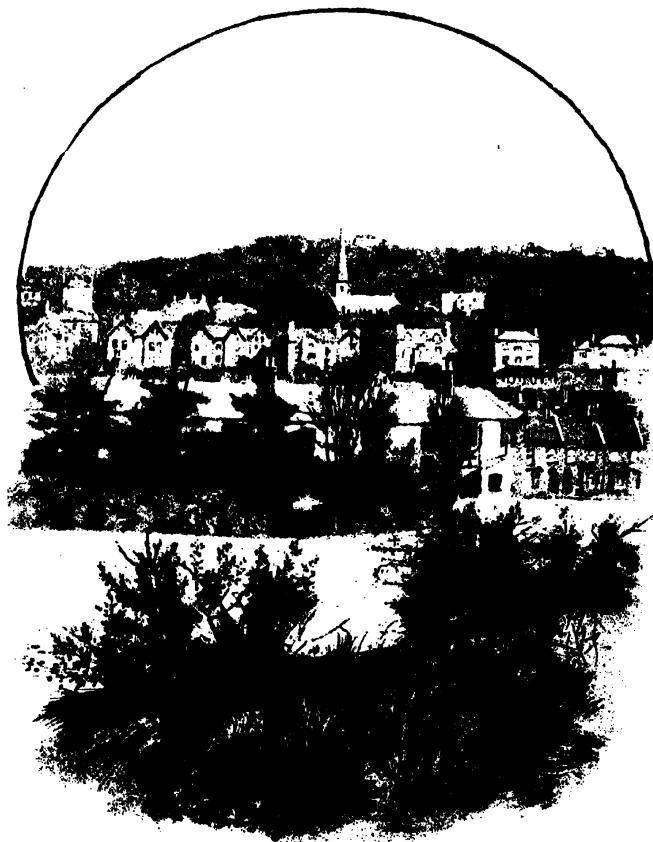
by rail or river and thence walks across the heath to Wimbledon will find his profit. Nor is anything wanting to furnish well-read wanderers with pleasant dramatic memories. Yonder is "Bowling-Green House" where Pitt died, the most serious loss that a party has ever sustained.



VIEW ACROSS THORNTON HEATH

His death, however, was not occasioned by anxiety or overwork, as has been supposed, but was owing to his too copious draughts of port wine and water. He was fond of Putney, and often found his way there to

spend a Sunday with his friend Dundas. Another great man, Gibbon, spent his childhood here. An obelisk will be noted, which was raised to commemorate a curious fireproof experiment of the younger David Hartley's. He erected a house on the heath which was set on fire in presence of the king and a vast crowd, and successfully defied the "devouring element." For this he received a grant of £2500, and the house still remains. In West Lodge lived Douglas Jerrold, and here died Leigh Hunt. Nor is the exciting element of duelling wanting; no fewer than three Ministers of the Crown having "fought" here—Mr. Pitt, Mr. Canning, and Lord Castle-reagh. The heath has therefore

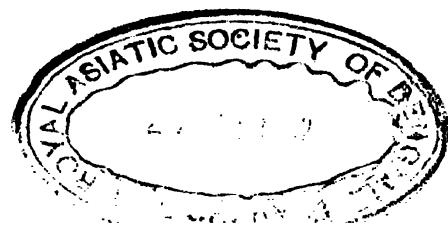


VIEW FROM AUCKLAND HILL, LOWER NORWOOD

dramatic memories enough. Not far from Wimbledon is Merton, associated with Nelson and Lady Hamilton, who, it is said, used to fish in the Wandle river. The foolish heroine dubbed a little stream of the place "The Nile." Not a stone, however, is left to show the site of



CRYSTAL PALACE FROM WEST NORWOOD





ON TOOTING COMMON

the mansion. Pursuing the road some four or five miles south, we come to Malden and Worcester, formerly a portion of Nonsuch Park. A pleasant walk leads on to Ewell and the breezy Epsom.

Not far from Fulham is the pleasant Barnes Common, which, however, is sadly cut up by roads, railways, and buildings. There is a charming stroll from the common, through rural roads and green lanes, on to Roehampton. Here we find a row of irregular and picturesque houses clustered to-



IN THE MEADOWS, LOWER SYDENHAM



ILL, UPPER NORWOOD

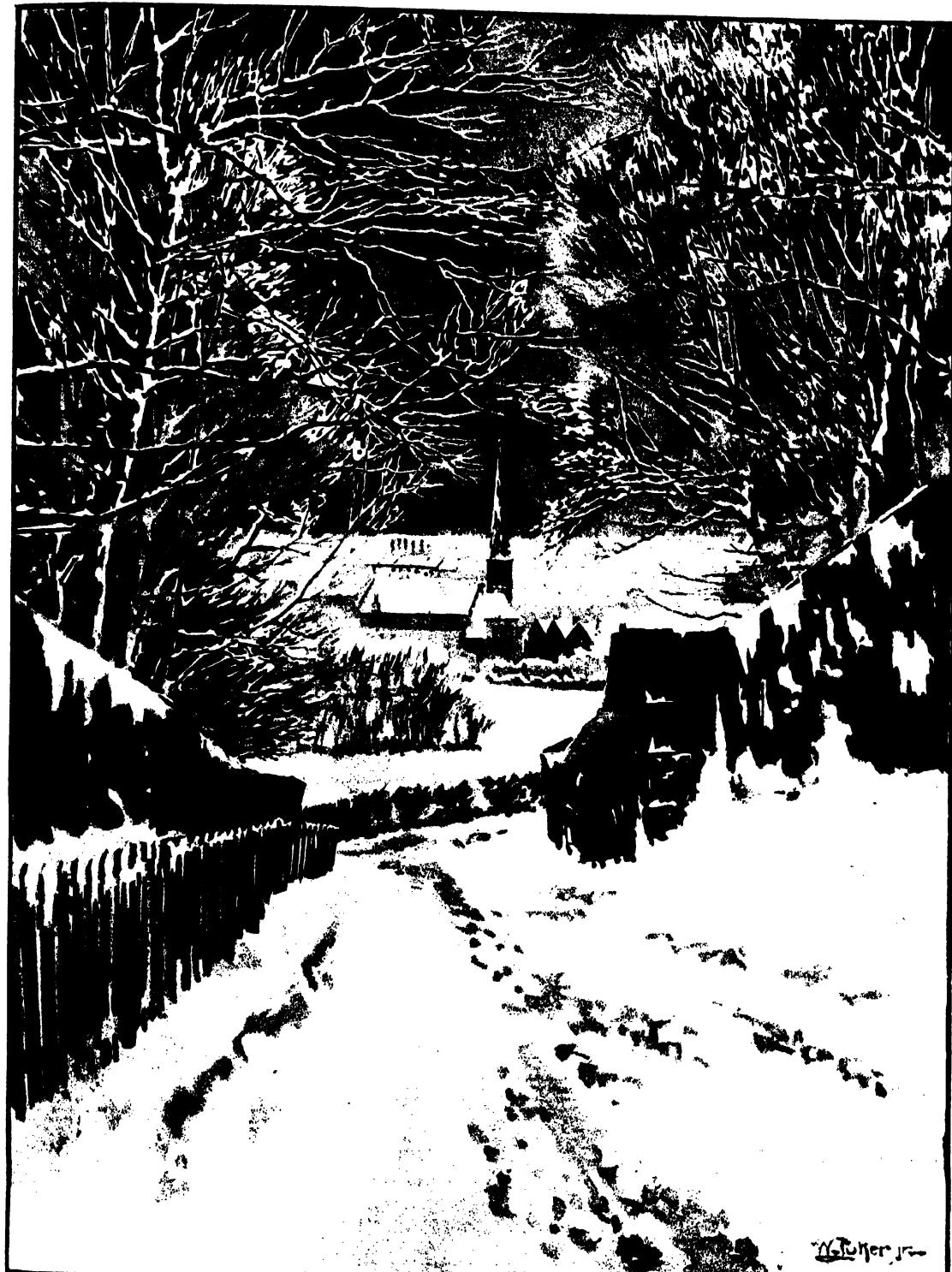
by Thornhill, the artist of St. Paul's. Here, too, was Dover House, where Lord Clifden used to gather numbers of his political friends, who were glad to come down and breathe the good air of the district, which is truly inspiring, owing to the stretch of common adjoining. There are two notable religious houses here: Manresa, the Jesuit Novitiate and College, so called after the solitude in Spain to which

gether, with many an old tree and some enclosed demesnes. Here is a pleasing mansion of cheerful red brick and good architecture—Roehampton House, Lord Leven's seat. It is of genuine Queen Anne pattern, and dates from the year 1712. The ceiling of the saloon was painted in florid style



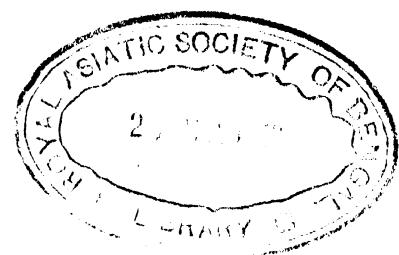
REDPOST HILL, NORTH DULWICH

St. Ignatius, the founder of the order, retired. It is a large and important institution; the house formerly belonged to Lord Bessborough, and was built by Sir W. Chambers. It once contained a fine collection of works of art; and round it extends a spacious demesne or park. The society has built a church for the use of the Roman Catholics in the district. The other institution is the well-known convent formerly at Acton, where numbers of young Catholic maidens have been reared.



ON SYDENHAM HILL

W. L. L. Jr.



Beddington, on the Wandle river, is notable for one of those great mansions associated with the history of some famous race, so that the house itself tells the story of the family. For here stood the mansion of the Carews, an Elizabethan family, of which all that is left is the old hall, which has been deftly "worked into" a Female Orphan Asylum. This, though incongruous enough, is better than wholesale destruction. Close by was discovered in 1871 an important Roman villa, chambers, pavement,



AUCKLAND ROAD, SOUTH NORWOOD



HIGH STREET, LOWER NORWOOD

coins, etc. A couple of miles to the west and we come to Sutton, where the sign of its inn, "The Greyhound," oddly hangs over the centre of the road as from an arch. At Croydon there is another "Greyhound"

which displays the same fashion of arch; typical, we may presume, of the animal itself.

The district is certainly abundantly supplied with commons. After about a mile's walk, we come to a pleasant specimen—that of Mitcham. This village, not many years ago, had a reputation for rurality, and was in high favour with the artist. Here we find the river Wandle, which winds on its tranquil course to London, joining the greater river at Wandsworth. There are many pleasing bits along its banks. The stream used to be in favour with the angler; but at Mitcham the



THORN LAW ROAD, WEST NORWOOD

manufacturers are in strong force, and strange mixtures, the refuse of drug manufacture, are poured into its waters. The fields all round are thickly sown with lavender, rose trees, and other sweet-scented herbs, essences being distilled here on a great scale. The ground offers a rich black mould suitable for such growths. The common, of



VIEW FROM FURZE HILL, SYDENHAM



.480 acres, is a fine expanse, over which healthful breezes sweep. Indeed, it is surprising what a variety of commons, heaths, "greens," sylvan lanes, hills, leafy roads, and the like are clustered in this district. It would require years to become familiar with their many beauties.

It is not a little curious to note the characteristics of these



STREATHAM COMMON

southern suburbs, as contrasted with those on the northern side of London. There is a greater softness and placidity; the air is not, of course, so keen, and there is certainly less variety in the landscape. We are never tired of contrasting the various commons with each other, and of discovering the respective "note" of each.

Returning to Camberwell Green, we find ourselves close to Denmark Hill, Dulwich, and many verdant roads and paths that lead to the Crystal Palace. Within a circle of not many miles we



FOX LANE, ANNERLEY

find the commons of Wandsworth, Barnes, Clapham, Wimbledon, Putney, Streatham, Tooting, Mitcham, Peckham Rye, etc.; each with a charm or physiognomy of its own, and all within measurable distance. The curious and now almost insipid tameness of certain districts, such as the "Brixton Land," is to be noted:

long, monotonous roads, lined

with villas, detached and semi-detached, with neat but rather desponding-looking gardens in front, meet us everywhere. Here is one of the few remaining old mansions with a history, Raleigh House, which has been often threatened, and whose grounds it was proposed to purchase for



RECTORY LANE, TOOTING

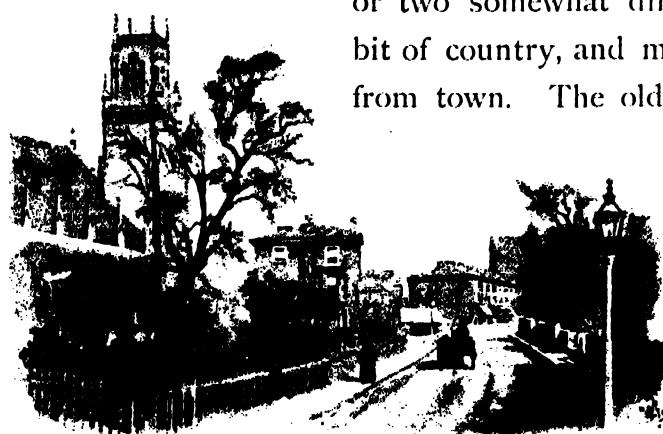


LOWER NORWOOD FROM AUCKLAND HILL.

a People's Park. It is an interesting relic. Tranquil and inviting is the entrance to Dulwich, with its abundance of old trees seen from afar off, and scattered along the wide road, the strip of grass here and there, with the "Greyhound Inn" modestly retired, and the stray old house

or two somewhat dilapidated. It seems a genuine bit of country, and might be a hundred miles away from town. The old college, though plastered over

and modernised, has still an antique mouldering air, and solitary too. I have noted that the tenants of these "charities" are rarely to be seen—they probably shrink from public observation.

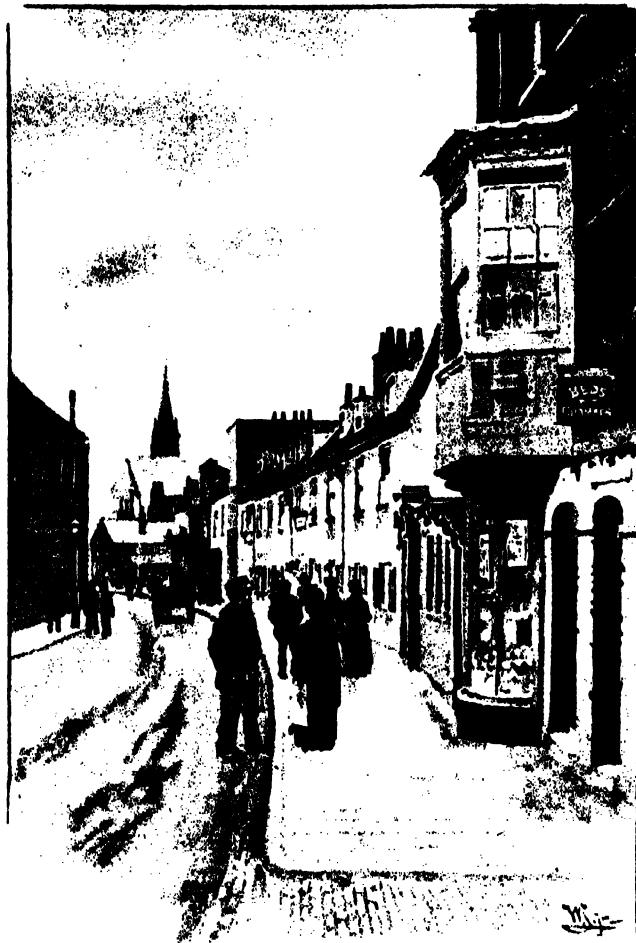


CHURCH ROAD, ANERLEY

Farther on is the Gallery, a yellow modern building—there is a pleasantly original feeling in finding an intellectual entertainment such as a picture gallery in so rural a solitude. It is not often that we

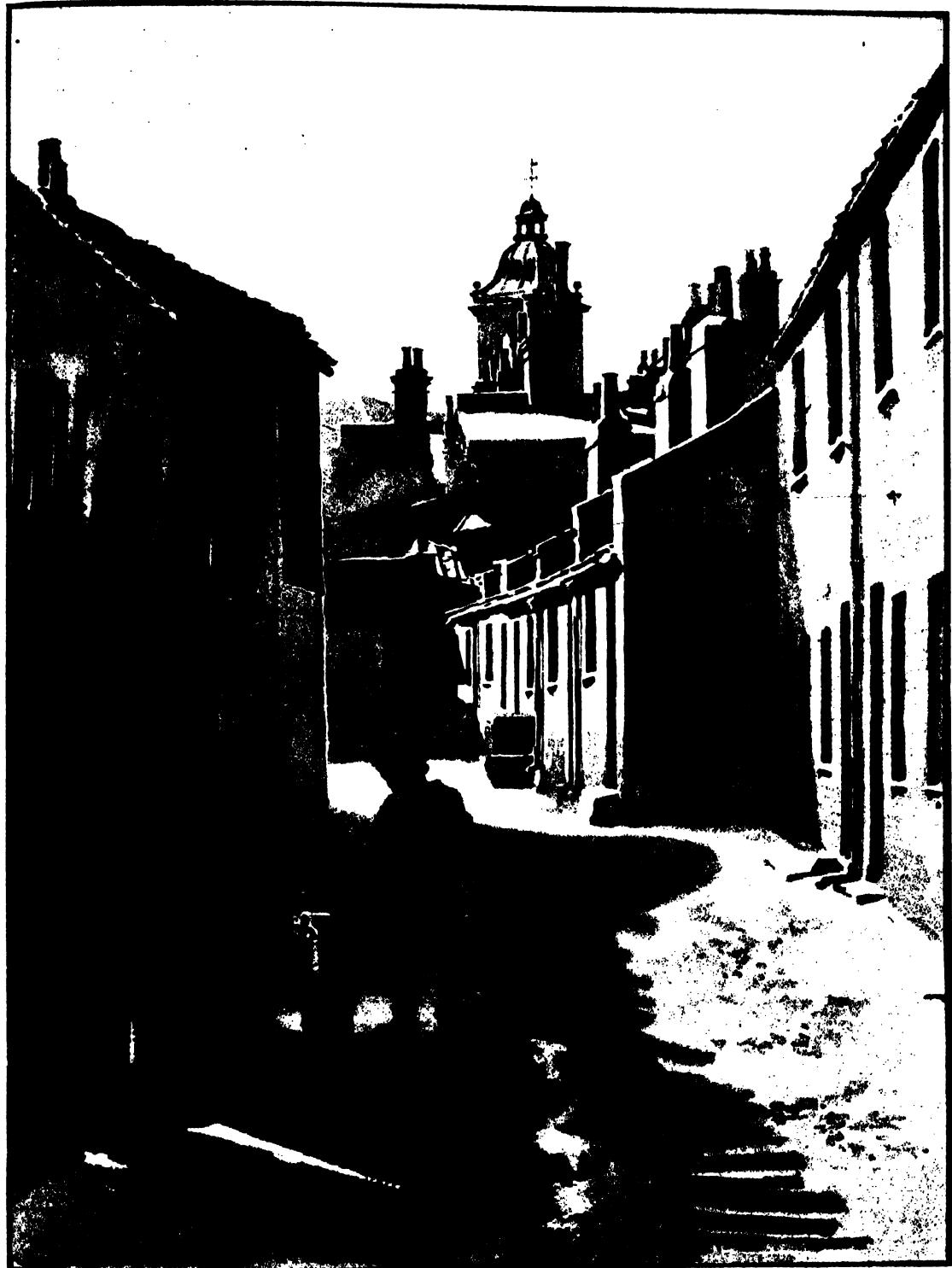
pass from meadows and trees and a country road to the glories of Gainsborough and Teniers. It is one of the prettiest and choicest galleries conceivable. From its compactness and moderate size, it suggests that most enjoyable of collections, that at the Hague. One picture here—that of the two elegant Linley sisters—is well worth a long trudge from town to see.

Denmark Hill is a fair attractive district, with distinct charms of its own. The air here seems ever mild and salubrious; there is an abundance of old trees by the roadside, with pleasant fields stretching far away. There are gentle ascents by Denmark



MIL. LANE, NEW CROSS

Hill and Dulwich, quaintly named Dog-kennel Hill and Redpost Hill. Here are comfortable-looking mansions, of old-fashioned and formal cut, that seem to doze on in tranquil fashion. The speculative builder has not, as yet, done much mischief, and there are few of his favourite "terraces" to be seen. The fair country seems to



REBECCA PLACE, NEW CROSS



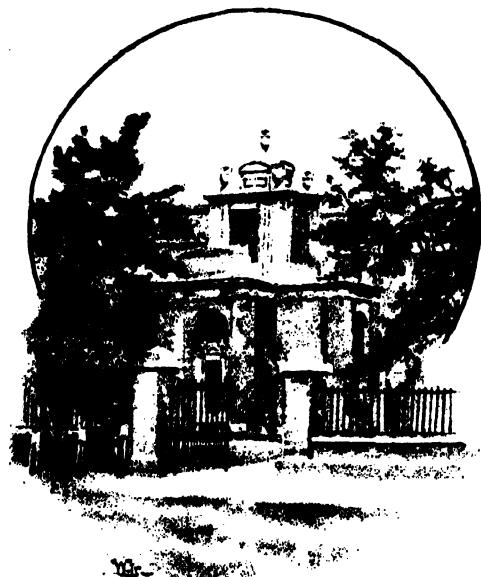


BEULAH HILL.

the way by leafy gardens of good extent, within which are large villas or country houses of fair size, embowered in shrubberies. These mansions offer infinite variety in design—witness that curious specimen “The Casino.” Nearly all date from the last century, and if not very striking in design, are at least, as Johnson said of Boswell’s Scotch accent, “not offensive.” They harmonise admirably with their rural surroundings.

Between Sydenham and Streatham are Tooting Common and the adjoining Tooting-Bec, the former having over sixty acres and the other about a hundred and fifty. Streatham Common, which joins them, covers sixty-six acres, and forms a fine stretch of diversified ground; there is gorse, and many a knoll, and good old trees. At the entrance, almost, to Streatham there is

commence here, for the long, densely-crowded rows of town houses stop abruptly at Camberwell Green, whence there spread out at once the inviting rural roads to Sydenham and Dulwich. There is a pleasing walk by Denmark Hill and Herne Hill on to Tulse Hill, the latter lined all



ENTRANCE TO DULWICH PICTURE GALLERY



LANE BORDERING STREATHAM COMMON

a sort of rustic dell or enclosure, the old Streatham Spa, once in repute and still flowing.

Long associated with suburbs such as Camberwell, Peckham Rye, and the like, was a sort of cockney reputation: they were so thoroughly in the country that it became a sort of expedition or junketing to visit them. The scenes of farces in the old Wright and Buckstone days were often placed at "The Rye;" and the name given to one piece, "Did you ever send your wife to Camberwell?" shows that a visit to such places was a matter of pith and moment. Peckham is no longer the old Peckham: it is overrun

with terraces and houses, and the "rye" or common has a stunted, impoverished, albeit neat and trim air.

The various ascents from Dulwich onwards to "the Palace" have

a special attraction. The roads are "green lanes," and, in spite of the innumerable villas, never seem to lose their sylvan character. The foliage, the laurels and shrubberies, are luxuriant, and the grass abounds; and with it all there is a certain sense of dreamy solitude, an air of contented happiness and



POND ON STREATHAM COMMON



GREENWICH





LEWISHAM HIGH ROAD

tranquillity. About the Palace itself there is a poetical tone; it is plain that it is the very life and soul of the district, and inspires all. In spite of its familiarity, the visitor who is set down at the station always

anticipates festivity, as he gazes aloft at the enormous glittering glass pile. Still it might be said that there is no recipe for depression and despondency so certain as a few days' diligent attendance at "the Palace," while following its round of entertainments in strict fashion.



ST. JOHN'S ROAD, LEWISHAM



JERNINGHAM ROAD, NEW CROSS

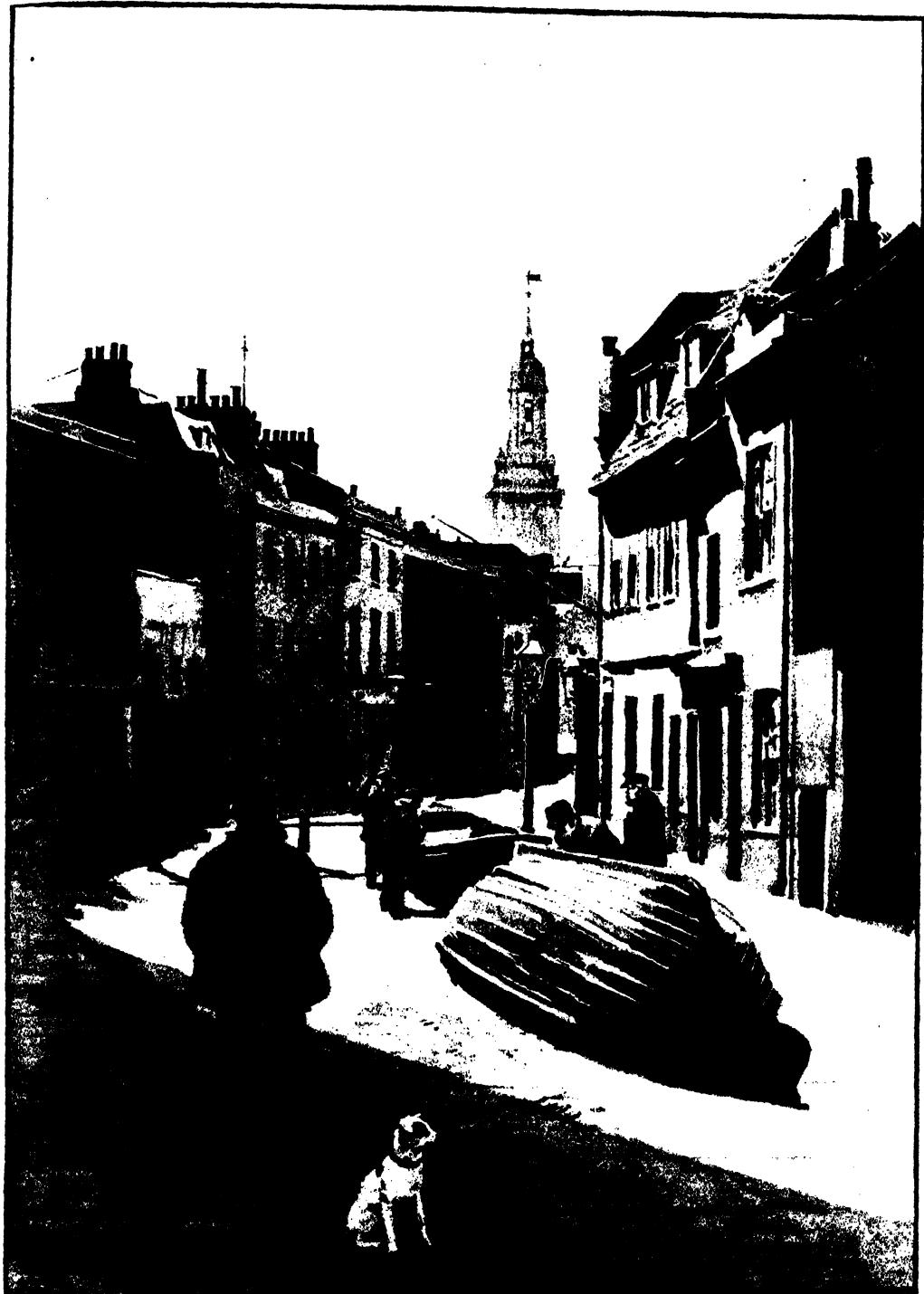
This district of Sydenham, Norwood, Forest Hill, Anerley, Gipsy Hill, "Lordship Lane," is about the fairest and most "winsome" of all the suburban dependencies of London. Covered as it is with villas and terraces, it still maintains its sylvan aspect, owing perhaps to its high situation, and the luxuriance of its growths. We are so familiar with it that we

are scarcely struck with its charm; but the stranger is always affected in this way.

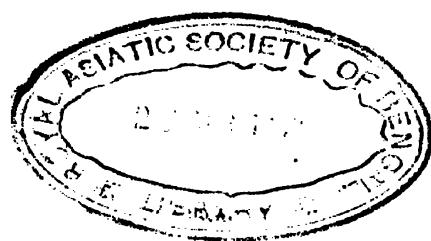
From every point is seen the central attraction, the silvery, glittering palace, which, according to our theory of every suburb having "a note"



GROVE PARK



CHURCH STREET, GREENWICH



of its own, imparts a tone to the whole district and affects even the character and pursuits of the natives. Of a morning, at Anerley and other stations are seen crowds of busy men hurrying up to town for the day's work. For them the fine air is recuperative; their houses are built in substantial and sometimes elegant style, and overgrown by luxuriant ivy, often suggesting the suburbs of Dorking. At the other side of the valley that lies at the foot of the Palace, and passing by Beulah Hill, we find Streatham. On some fine, balmy, sunshiny day there is a charming walk to this good old common. Nothing more sylvan can

THE HORSE AND GROOM¹¹ INN, BLACKHEATH HILL

MORDEN COLLEGE, BLACKHEATH

be imagined than this country with its bosquet and trees. How welcome the "Paragon"—old-fashioned name!—with its irregular houses. Streatham will ever have a charm, owing to the memories of

Dr. Johnson and Mrs. Thrale, whose mansion or villa was swept away many years ago. The last generations were very "incurious" about such memorials; now-a-days there is a revival of interest owing to a better knowledge, and with this better knowledge there is more reverence.

The route to Greenwich by water is pleasant and often breezy. That by the road offers little that is not dreary until we approach Deptford. There is a sort of Dutch picturesqueness about the now disused dockyard. An occasional old terrace or old building, not old enough to be antique, but old-fashioned, greets us. One feels a sort of cheery inspiration



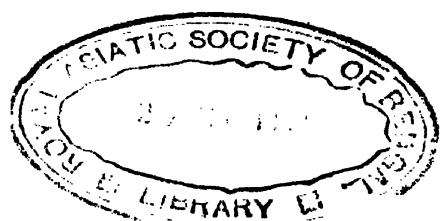
CHRISTCHURCH ROAD, DULWICH HILL

as Greenwich comes in view, with the palatial hospital and delightful park. It is curious to think how Londoners, in the days of Boswell and Johnson, could have had the patience to *row* down here in a wherry. But this was the regular method.

The two roads that wind up the hill on each side of Greenwich



NEAR GREENWICH



Park have each their attraction. As we ascend by that on the right we note the little pagoda-shaped summer-house of elegant design which bears the date of the 17th century, probably attached to some good manor house long since swept away. Close to it, hard by the church, is a very old house of antique design, well worthy of study, but dilapidated. As we ascend we come to a number of solid, square brick houses, disposed with a picturesque irregularity, some standing in their own walled gardens. Descents, such as Shooter's Hill, exemplify their names, and the straggling variations of the ground lend a certain originality. We pass by the "ranger's house," a bright and cheerful tenement, once the residence of the unlucky Queen Caroline, and pursue our way along a rural-looking road, lined by fine old trees, enjoying the fresh inspiring breezes that are always wafted from Blackheath and Shooter's Hill. This quarter has quite an old-world look, and has been little altered by the moderns. Should we ascend by the other road on the left, we shall pass that odd brick "Gazebo" known as "Vanbrugh Castle," a fortress-like structure with battlements and towers all overgrown with wild foliage, a freak of the versatile architect, dramatist, and soldier. There are some other houses



OLD HOUSES, GREENWICH



SHOOTER'S HILL

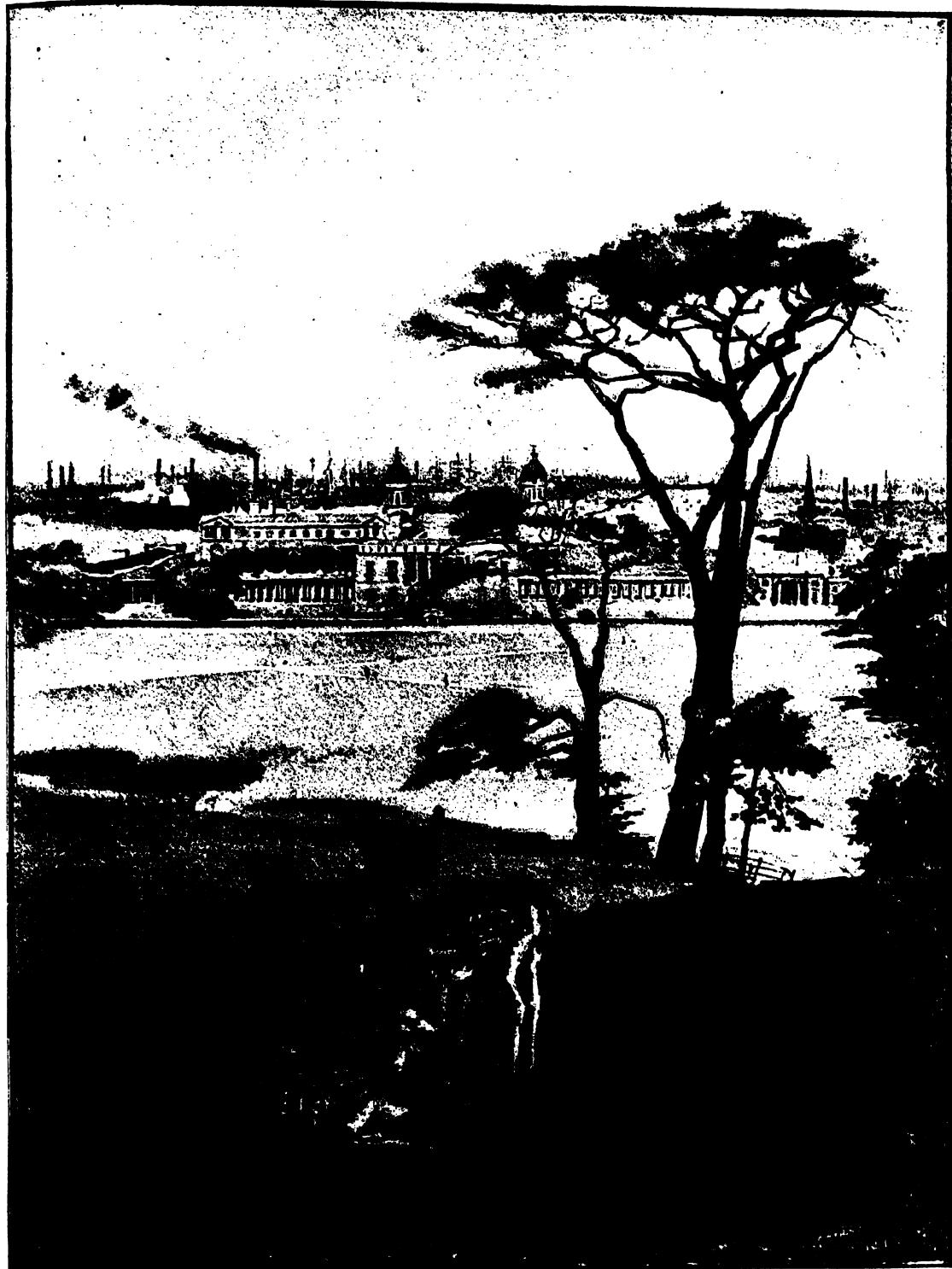
of his design scattered about. He was one of the earliest to use the native yellow English brick as a substitute for the brilliant red tile then imported from Holland.

A pleasant morning or afternoon may be whiled away at Greenwich. The park alone is novel and welcome, and looks much as it was when Johnson and his admirer came down by wherry to spend the day there.



BROMLEY FROM BECKENHAM

When we stand on the plateau of the heath, beyond which lies Blackheath, the inspiring breezes are felt and many a faded cheek begins to gain colour. There is a charming row of houses, a paragon of old mansions, that rambles away below, with a quaint crescent. There is a scene of bustle and animation, from the matches of football or cricket always going on between the various schools of the neighbourhood. Here, too, are "the links" for the curiously fascinating golf, where we



GREENWICH PARK



can see the enthusiastic players in their scarlet uniforms patiently walking round from hole to hole, attended by their mysterious "caddies," who carry the implements.

If we take our way across the heath, making towards the left, leaving the "paragon" and the old-fashioned terrace behind us, we shall enter a pleasant, well-planted *bosquet* or grove and some delightful gardens, which lead us to Morden College, a picturesque brick structure, with high roof and bold eaves, through whose open gateway we can see into the spacious court within. Round it runs an arcade. An occasional glimpse of such a place, now so antique—for it dates from 1694—and so sequestered, kindles old associations, and induces a tranquil meditative tone of mind, not unacceptable in this generation of novelties. We can understand how Washington Irving or Addison would have felt as they wandered round this inviting building. As we stand in the centre of the Court by the disused well, no one is to be seen, though now a door opens quietly in the arcade, and a figure, a little decayed and shady, flits



BURNT ASH HILL, LEE



BROMLEY ROAD, GROVE PARK

along, to disappear by another door. This is a foundation established by Sir Thomas Morden, a wealthy merchant of his day, who provided for some forty pensioners who have been in trade, and who enjoy board and lodging and a little income of £72. This worthy gentleman and his lady look down from their niches over this gateway, two quaint figures, well coloured and arrayed in the costume of their time.



VIEW FROM BROMLEY RECREATION GROUNDS

Returning along the high-road from Greenwich, we pass again through Deptford and come to New Cross, which has an old-fashioned air, as becomes a once coaching road. Here are some schools; the "Old Naval" with its chapel; and a rather sylvan-looking meeting of the ways, where the tramcars halt; and an ascent upon the Hill, whence there is a fair view. A short walk brings us to Lewisham, which has much the air of a country town, and lines both sides of the road for nearly a mile. Perched high in a well-wooded country is the attractive Bromley, where one would be inclined to linger for the sake of the old

Widows' College with its courtyard and sound brickwork, and where some forty matrons are maintained. A building of this kind gives a "note" or character to a town or village. There used to be the old Palace of the Bishops of Rochester standing hard by the entrance; but it was levelled, we are told, by a former bishop on account of a chimney where had stood a flower-pot in which had been hidden treasonable papers that incriminated Bishop Sprat. All Johnsonians will recall "Tetty," who lies buried in the church. Following a footpath, we come

to Beckenham, which lies in a pretty country with plenty of "field walks." The church is old and has "brasses" to show; and, as is usual in so many Kentish hamlets, is approached picturesquely beneath a row of ancient yews, and through a venerable lych-gate. Between Lewisham and Blackheath we find at Lee the oddly named "Burnt Ash Hill."



SUNNY BANK, SOUTH NORWOOD



CENTRAL AVENUE, BATTERSEA PARK

CHAPTER VII

LONDON RIVER SUBURBS

Chelsea—Putney—Hammersmith and Chiswick Malls—Kew and its Wall Drawings—Brentford—Suburban Mansions—Richmond and Twickenham—Strawberry Hill “Estate”—Hampton Court and Kingston.

RETURNING to Westminster Bridge, we shall commence our new promenade at this picturesque and busy centre, and follow the course of the mighty river to Kew, Richmond, and Kingston, loitering by the way. No more agreeable voyage of discovery could be made.

After passing Lambeth, the first object that we note is the grim weather-beaten old pile on the left, the palace of the Archbishops of Canterbury, with its old central hall, Inigo's work, its expressive



LAMBETH BRIDGE AND PIER



LONDON RIVER SUBURBS



"ROYAL HOSPITAL INN," CHELSEA

lantern contrasting with the rusted brickwork of the solemn towers. It was lately seen with much effect when the cause of the Bishop of Lincoln was being heard. A morning might be spent here with pleasure. Few would suspect what fair and spacious gardens spread out round the building. Behind us we can see the four heavy

towers of St. John's Church, a massive structure that seems like a city church lost among these forlorn slums. The clumsy towers have been jocosely likened to an elephant on his back or to a four-post bed upside down. Not far beyond it is the condemned prison of Millbank, strangely built on eighteen acres of "swamp"—swamp it looks like to this hour—planned after a hobby of Jeremy Bentham's, known as the "panopticon" system. We pass over Vauxhall Bridge, perhaps the meanest and most squalid of London bridges, like Johnson's leg of mutton, "ill kept, ill made, and as bad as bad can be." It is a surprise to learn that it cost £150,000. The old Battersea Bridge was destined



ROYAL MILITARY ASYLUM, CHELSEA

to be the last of the picturesque decayed bridges on the river—every pile propped up, its whole outline irregular, therefore welcome to Mr. Whistler and other etchers.

Here we pass by the great Military Hospital with its vast grounds in front and rear, which has a stately monumental air, albeit built of plain brick. The smaller buildings.

attached to it have a piquancy, and even elegance, which only a great architect, such as Wren was, could confer. At the corner of the road facing is still seen the old inn introduced by Wilkie into one of his most famous pictures.

Battersea Park lies on the opposite bank, a modern enclosure of 185 acres, and, like all "people's parks," contrived to be as trim, tame, and monotonous as possible. Here the honest worker and his family

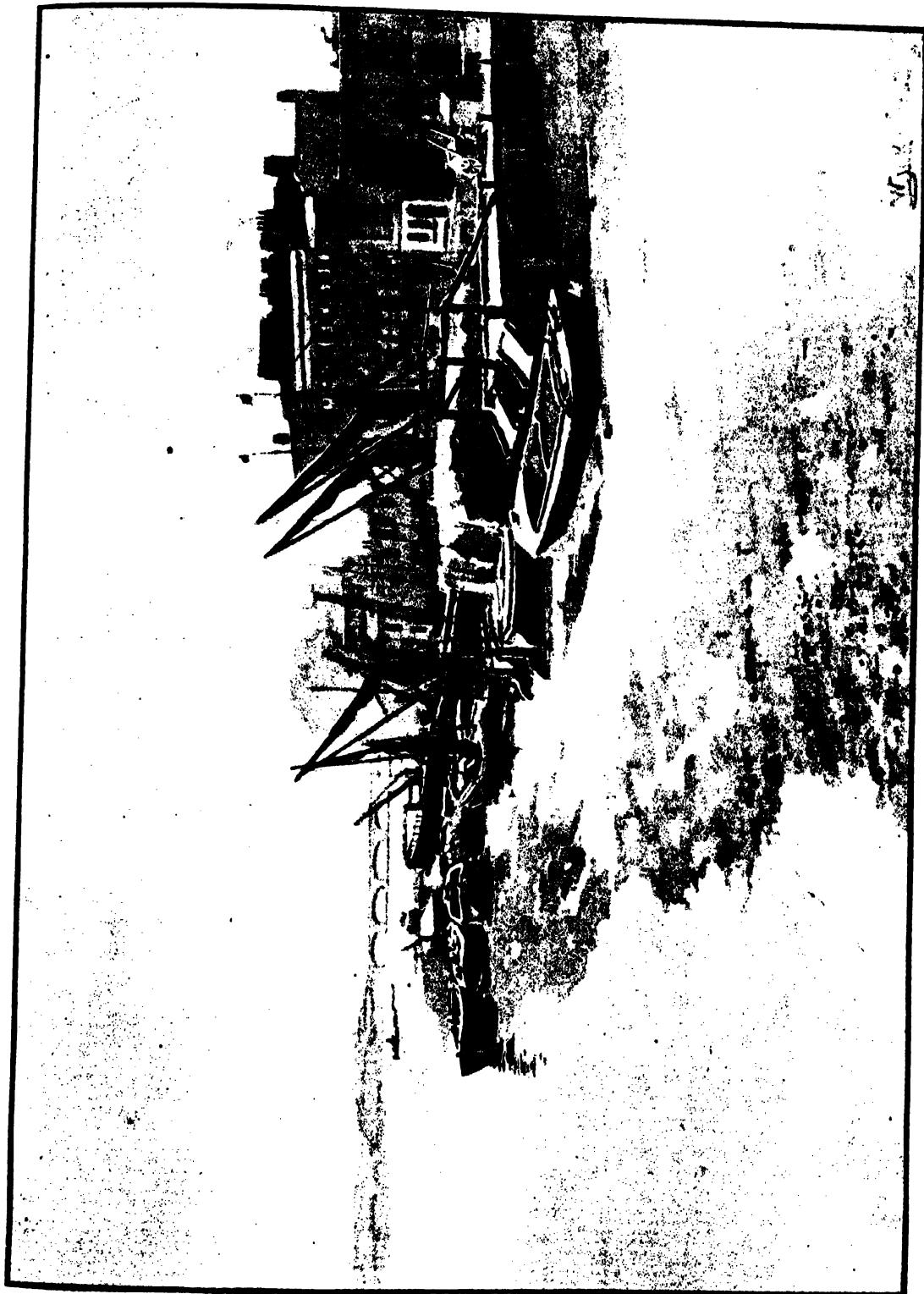


CHURCH STREET, CHELSEA

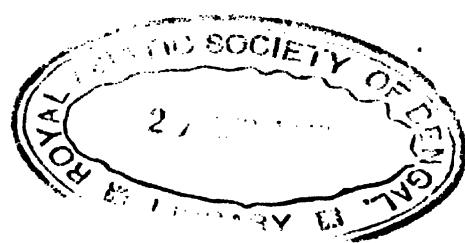
resort, but seem to take their pleasure sadly enough. The place has its artificial lake and "sub-tropical" garden, no doubt of great interest for the scientific. Along the river, we note what seem the ruins of a temple. Here are columns, pediments, capitals, lying about in profusion and confusion, overgrown with



REMAINS OF BURLINGTON HOUSE, REMOVED TO BATTERSEA PARK



LAMBETH REACH



grass. A sort of London Tadmor. The wondering stranger is informed that these are not ruins, but simply the stones of the colonnade at Burlington House, carted off here, and here for some five-and-twenty years have they lain forgotten!

Crossing from Battersea Park, we arrive at Chelsea, the eye resting with pleasure on the grim old tower and church which stand by the river-side. Curious too is the effect of the monumental tablets encrusted into the outside walls, and with quaint effect. We find the same at Richmond and other suburban churches. The gloomy irregular interior, with its imposing monuments crowded together, stirs up recollections of the good Sir Thomas More, who often sat here of a Sunday. It seems to be always fast closed, and the sexton must be fetched to show it. The modern pseudo-Dutch mansions which line the Chelsea Embankment seem to harmonise with the river. They are as remarkable for their variety of design as for their solid construction. They have piquant names, "Riverside," "Swan House," "White House," "Carlyle House,"



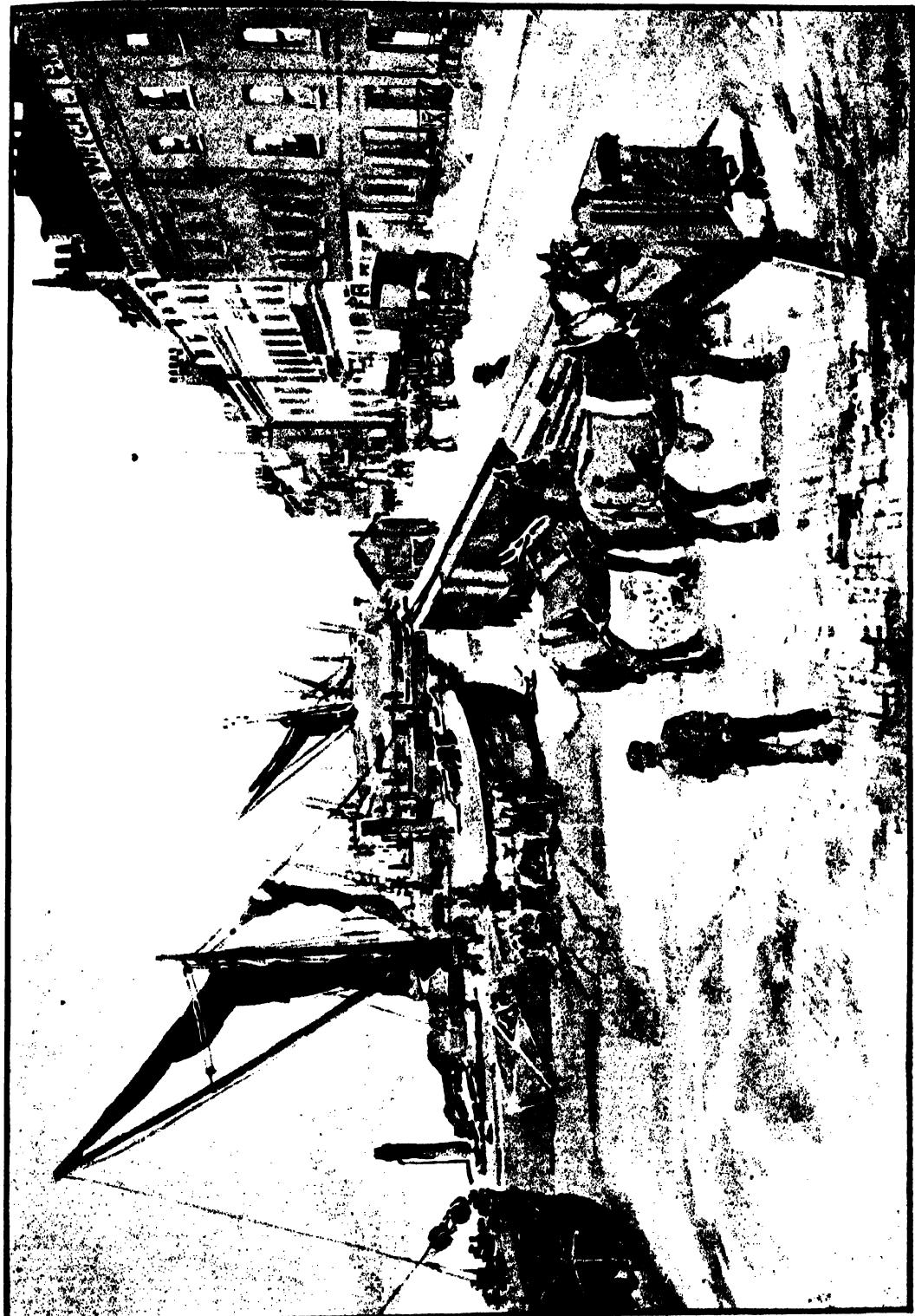
DAISY LANE, FULHAM



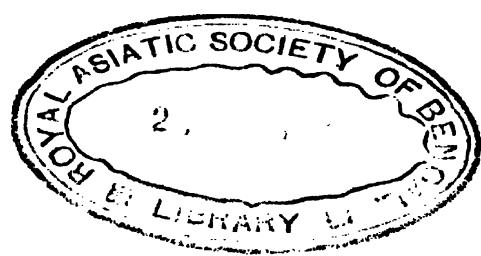
WANDSWORTH FROM THE WANDLE.

etc. In twenty or thirty years, when the trees are full grown, and the red tone is well mellowed, they will add much to the picturesque attractions of this part of the river. The tenants of these mansions, as well as those who dwell nearer to Westminster, in the Grosvenor Road, hard by to Lambeth Bridge, might fairly fancy themselves in Dutchland, certainly not in London, as they look from their windows of a morning on the sluggish river below, on the barges with copper-coloured sails drifting by on the sad leaden river, the solitary terrace lying below, and the mournful trees.

Interesting, too, the old Chelsea "Physick Garden"—quaint name—given to the apothecaries by Sir Hans Sloane, who has given so much to London. We may note the gloomy sepulchral-looking cedars. The trunk of one is now twelve feet round, of the other fifteen. They are



GROSVENOR ROAD FROM LAMBETH BRIDGE



'described in the old guides as "overhanging the river."

In Chelsea we might linger a whole day exploring, and we would be more than repaid. Cheyne Walk as it stands has a charming air of old fashion, with its old red-brick houses, each with an individual character of its own, some with elaborate gates of twisted

iron, carved doorways, and the rest. A row of fine, old, well-grown trees runs in front, at the other side of the road. Beyond this is the Embankment Garden with its young trees; then the Embankment itself, and then the river.

How many will recall with regret the picturesque Cheyne Walk of twenty years ago! It required but little stretch of imagination to fancy oneself in Delft or Rotterdam. The old houses lined the river-bank, and the good old trees were at the edge of the water, guarded by a straggling white timber rail, while innumerable wherries and watermen were always clustered near it. There, too, was the remnant of the old "Bun House" projecting into the water. The mixture of colours, gay red, gay green, white, combined with the slatey river, was truly Flemish. There was much animation



ST. CHELSEA CHURCH

OLD HOUSES, CHEYNE WALK, SHOWING TURNER'S HOUSE
ON THE EXTREME LEFT

and bustle from embarking and coming ashore. The Thames watermen were here as much in force as they are now at Richmond, and the place seemed as far off. Now all is trim and correct, and has been neatly ordered, of course with much gain to everybody—save the artist. Sir R. Philips and the late Mr. Crofton Croker wrote some agreeable accounts of the country walks which they took in these regions, and it is disheartening to read how much all the rustic elements have disappeared in the interval. Sir Richard, whose promenade was in 1817, describes how he saw, close to Cheyne Walk, the old palace of the Bishop of Winchester; and about a hundred yards to the left, some "decayed premises" used as a paperhanging factory, believed to have been the house of Sir Thomas More. In one of the gardens, and arrayed in his warm dressing-gown, his knees well covered, and



OLD HOUSES IN WANDSWORTH PLAIN

looking out with a deliberate reflection, is seen Thomas Carlyle, wrought in bronze by Boehm. Had it been of life-size, it would have been far more effective. Note the old-English chair in which he sits, in which we have seen him sit at his own humble tenement, which is in Cheyne Row



WANDSWORTH COMMON

hard by, a good old house, too, of the Queen Anne era. It always seemed gloomy, the furniture old and unlovely, and it was little wonder that he suffered from depression of spirits. Almost every house in Cheyne Walk has its history, and can boast of some notable tenant, such as that strange genius Turner, with Rossetti, Maclise, and many more.



HIGH STREET, WANDSWORTH

Farther on, by the river, may be noted the outlines of an imposing mansion of great antiquity, in fair preservation, and divided into a number of smaller tenements. It boasts its steep roof and "dormers," and was erst the suburban residence of the Earls of Lindsey, who had also their town mansion, still to be seen in Lincoln's Inn Fields. On the ground close by were the old Cremorne Gardens, now swept away. Not very many years ago there were not less than four of these sylvan places of resort open: Vauxhall, the Surrey, Cremorne, and the Eagle.

Vauxhall Gardens, originally Foxhall, held their ground from the days of Charles II. to our own, and were to be found on the other side of Vauxhall Bridge, close to the station of the South-Western Railway. There are elderly, not even old persons, who have been taken, when children, to see the many thousand "additional lamps" which were lighted every evening. The Surrey was close to St. George's Cathedral in the Borough. "The Eagle," described by Boz in his *Sketches*, was a tavern,

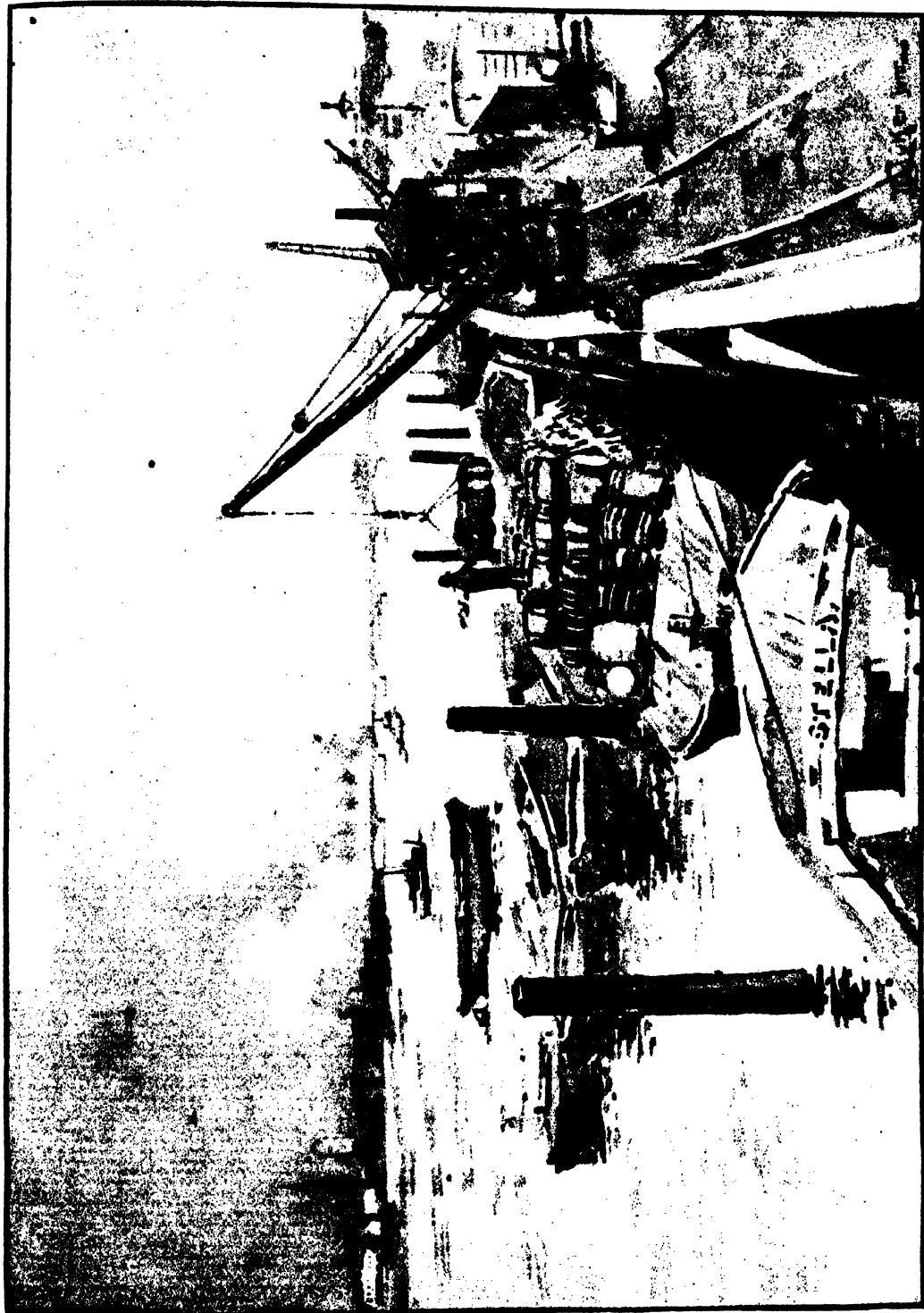
combined with a music hall and gardens, and is now, we believe, in the possession of "General" Booth.* Cremorne was a suburban mansion of that name. It touched the river, and with its fine old trees and shaded alleys was really an attractive spot. The mansion house—a bowed structure—became what was called "the hotel" or bar.

Nothing was more pictur-

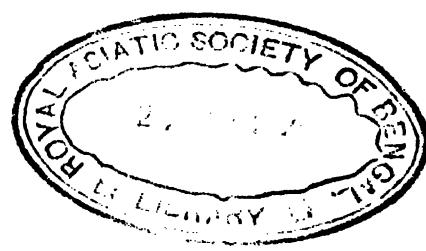
esque than the voyage down the river of some summer's evening, with the landing and the walk up the long umbrageous avenue; a few lights twinkled in the distance and excited a sense of mystery. It was, however, destroyed, ostensibly to gratify the moral sense of the public, but, I believe, under pressure of builders and speculators, who were greedily eager to cover its fair ground with streets and terraces. The amusement "garden" has now become impossible in this city, for the reason that any space thus left open is so much profit lost; and I believe the day is not far off when the owners of Lansdowne, Devonshire, Grosvenor, and other noble mansions and grounds will find



COTTAGES IN LOWER RICHMOND ROAD, PUTNEY



THE THAMES FROM NINE ELMS PIER



themselves under the same irresistible pressure.

We have said that Chelsea is imperishably associated with the good and pious Sir Thomas More. It is curious that there should be no memorial of him to be found save a tablet in the old church, where, however, he does not rest. His house near Beaufort Row was standing so lately as the year 1740. Not many years ago a portion of the wall of his garden remained. Chelsea, for personal association, is almost as interesting as the "old Court Suburb," for here resided a number of what may



BY THE WANDLE, WANDSWORTH



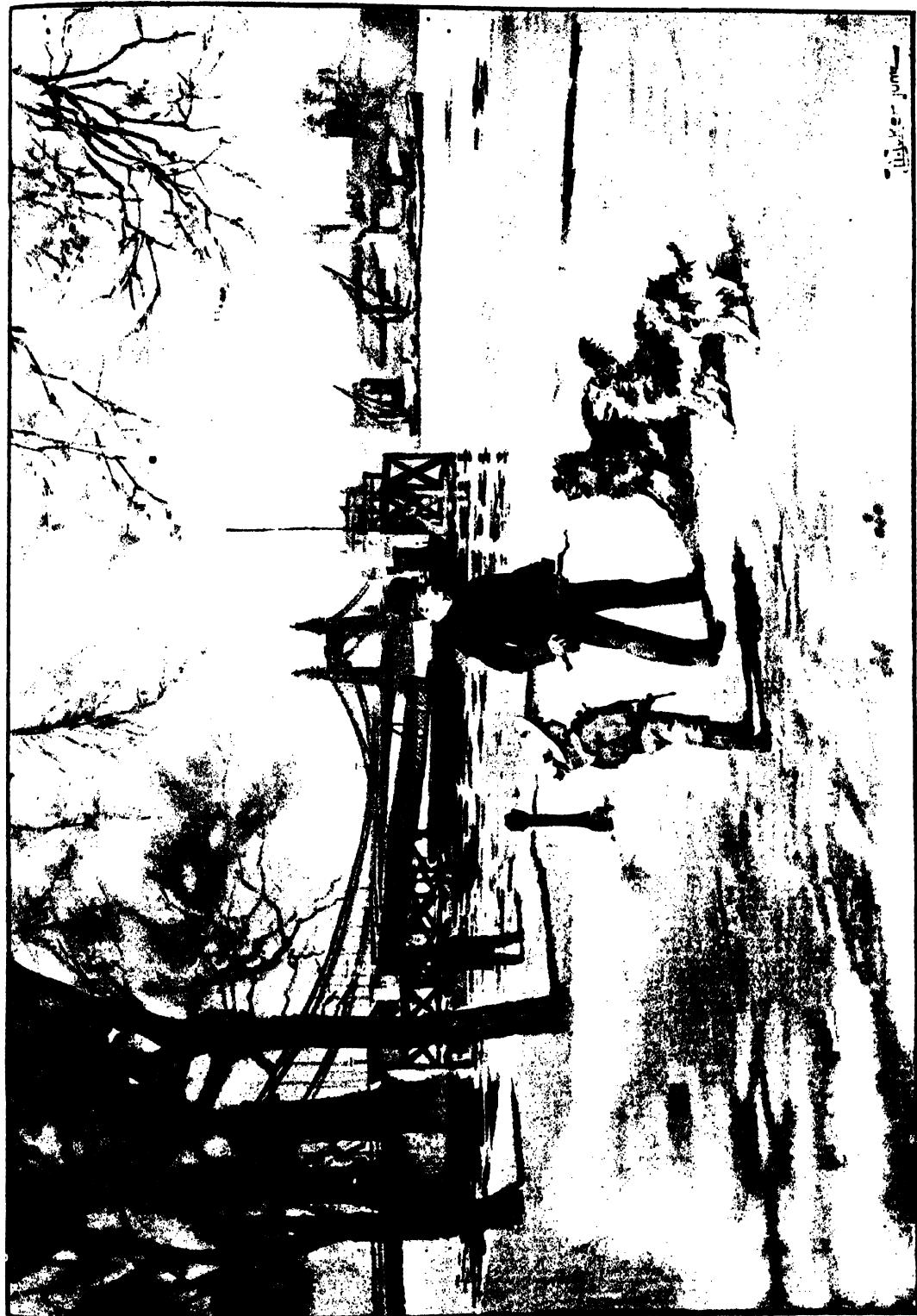
BISHOP'S AVENUE, FULHAM

be called *dramatic* personages whom the general public knows intimately and is interested in.

Battersea, seen from the bridge or river-side, has a strangely Dutch air. One would think it was a portion of the Scheldt, it having the same dull, sad tone. We note the clustered sheds and houses on the patch of shore beyond the bridge, the church with its green copper spire. Everything seems stagnant and sluggish. This church, though comparatively modern, is filled with the monuments of the Bolingbroke family; and it is interesting to find that of the great Lord Bolingbroke, which lies here unvisited and unsuspected. Indeed, the abundance of interesting memorials of this kind to be found in or about London is surprising. Sir Richard Philips once saw old Bolingbroke House standing. It is now Dives's mills, but it is said that Pope's rooms are still preserved in the west wing. The owner boasted that he often enjoyed a pipe in these chambers; and an old inhabitant was fetched

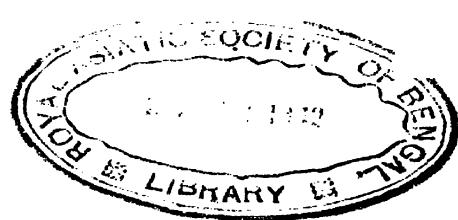


"THE OLD CRAB TREE," FULHAM



HAMMERSMITH PRIDE

— 1960 —





IN A FARM AT KILBURN

who remembered Lord Bolingbroke, and described the black and large wart on his cheek.

Passing by Wandsworth, which takes its name from the pretty river Wandle, and where there used to be a colony of Huguenots, we find, not far from Tooting, a place called Garrat which recalls a grotesque functionary—the “Mayor of Garrat”—celebrated in one of Foote’s farces. This officer received a grotesque sort of knighthood, and, like Sir Jeffrey Dunstan, had a strange, half-pathetic history. An association had been formed to protest in common against encroachments; and at the time of the Wilkes agitation a sort of burlesque election used to be held to choose a president, who was dubbed “mayor.” The publicans made up a purse, and the festivity was seized on by the London idlers as an occasion for a riotous display. Often a hundred thousand persons attended.

The Fulham Road is a long and monotonous thoroughfare, extending for several miles. Thirty or forty years ago it was a rural promenade, and Mr. Crofton Croker wrote an account of his "*Country walk to Fulham.*" There were gardens and markets and plenty of good old houses, a few of which are left. Before the present new Workhouse was built, a fine old mansion, Shaftesbury House, was used for the purpose. Here was good Georgian work: there were carved chimney-pieces, with paintings set in, and spacious chambers handsomely stuccoed; pavilions in the grounds, basins and fountains with a "little Hercules"—curious surroundings for the paupers! A few old roadside houses linger on, such as Arundel House and Taunton House, the latter once tenanted by the Duke of York and later by the redoubted John Wilson Croker, and where he concocted many of his rather venomous *Quarterly* articles; to say nothing of a few rather tottering old inns, such as "The Crab Tree," which have a reputation and which are picturesque enough.

As we look at the Club House at Barn Elms, and have glimpses of the river gliding lazily by, it is curious to think that its sward was trodden by Queen Elizabeth, who, three hundred years ago, used to come

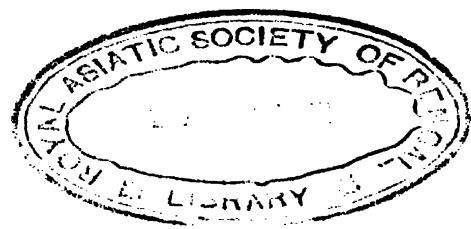
down here to visit Walsingham. His daughter was destined to be the wife of three remarkable men, the Earl of Essex, Sir Philip Sidney, and Lord Clanricarde. Other memories there are of Cowley the poet, who was visited here by Evelyn: hither, too, came the bustling Pepys. It was at Barn Elms that took place the strange and shameful duel



OLD GARDEN IN CRABTREE ALLEY, FULHAM



THE RIVER FROM HAMMERSMITH BRIDGE





"RED COW INN," HAMMERSMITH ROAD

down, are still shown at Bayfordbury, the seat of the Baker family, one of whom married the daughter and heiress of old Jacob Tonson, the printer, and thus brought the portraits into the family.

At Putney the river first begins to display its varied and inviting charms, though it here seems rather barren and ill-furnished. We note the two church towers that stand one at each end of the bridge; and there is a legend of two sisters passing a hammer backwards and forwards during the construction of the churches with cries to "*Put it nigh*," and "*Heave it full home!*" It is indeed astonishing how

between Lord Shrewsbury and the Duke of Buckingham, in which the former was killed; his wife was said to have held the Duke's horse. The old house has been restored and reshaped—the wings were added in the last century. The famous Kit-Kat pictures, forty-five in number, which were hung here in a building now pulled



PUTNEY HIGH STREET



LOWER MALL, HAMMERSMITH

rich some of these old churches are in monuments—monuments whose existence is unsuspected and unthought of. Thus we find, in Fulham Church, one to the chief physician of Henry VIII., Sir W. Butts, with, what is even more interesting, one to Dorothy Clarke carved by Grinling Gibbons. Here, too, lie Theodore Hook, and Vincent Bourne, the

poet of graceful Latin verse. In the porch is a strange, flamboyant, if not grotesque, monument to Lord Mordaunt.

The pleasing "Bishop's Walk" is a sort of raised terrace that runs beside the river, the grove that shelters the Palace lying on the right hand. It is bordered by a moat. Nothing more sequestered or rural can be conceived than this ancient and tranquil retreat, for which the present Bishop of London seems to have almost an affection, and for which he has altogether abandoned his town residence in St. James's Square. The tone of solitude that hangs about it is most inviting. The gate stands open, and you can wander in and not meet a soul.



UPPER BRIDGE ROAD, CASTELNAU

It boasts two quadrangles; the larger one built by Bishop Fitzjames, whose arms are over the gateway. The hall was the work of Bishop Fletcher, the father of the dramatist. In England most of the Bishops' Palaces wear this sort of gloomy, monastic air; but abroad and in France, they are mostly cheerful white structures surrounded by fair gardens. In and about Fulham are old houses, many with histories:



CHISWICK CHURCH

but they are fast disappearing. There is a river-side inn, not un-picturesque, known as "The Old Crab Tree."

The main street of Putney used until lately to display some good specimens of the old brick house with richly carved doorways and fair grounds behind. Here stood a fine old country mansion, Fairfax House, whose existence long hung in the balance, aesthetic persons pleading passionately for its preservation. The "jerry builder," however,

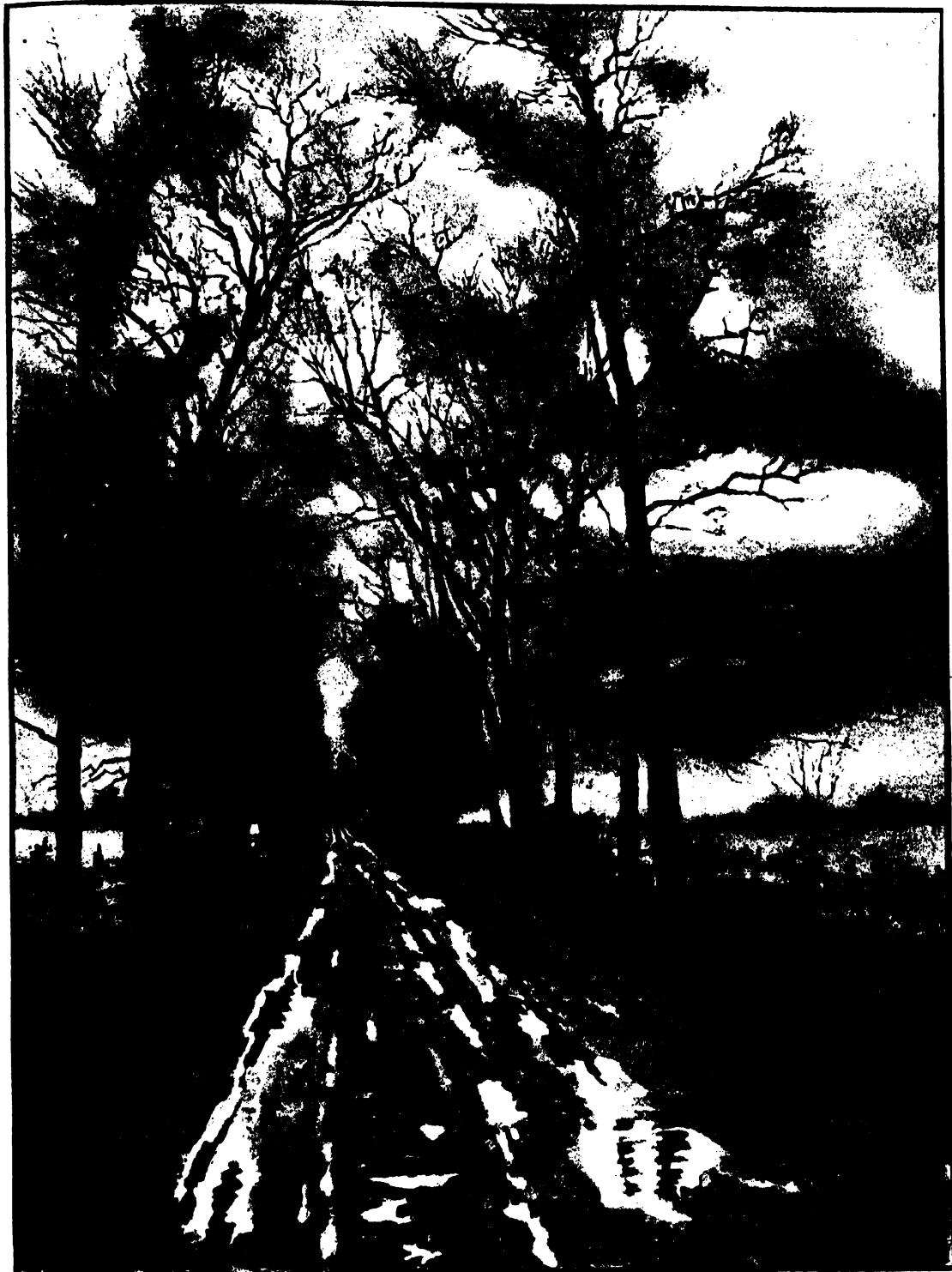
had his way, and has long since covered the grounds with "neat" brick-tenements and shops. Three or four good old specimens still remain, together with a picturesque roadside inn or "public" of great antiquity. Indeed throughout the year the place is drowsy enough, but at one season, during the boat-race, it wakes up. All the inns and boathouses are fairly alive with the candidates and their friends and backers, and the river presents an extraordinary scene of animation. Then we hear of nothing but the "tow-path" and "slowing off the Soap Works" and of the "coaching from the bank." The interest, however, of a contest between a number of mere college lads is fast dying out. In a few years it is likely that these so-called "Isthmian games" will have been given up.

We now return to the river, and follow its winding banks on to Hammersmith bridge.

Delightful is a stroll by the "Mall," which still retains its old-



IN THE WOODSTOCK ROAD, BEDFORD PARK



WEGG AVENUE, ACTON





"BURLINGTON ARMS," CHURCH STREET, CHISWICK

Upper Mall which had been the residence of Catherine of Braganza during her widowhood. After her tenancy it had the usual fate of large roomy mansions, and was turned into an academy. The house can be pointed out of the Prince of Wales's cook, Weltje. Sussex House was the residence of the Duke of that name. More inland was a little cottage known as "The Seasons," where his Grace used to retire to enjoy smoking his huge moerschaums, of which he had a collection. Behind the Mall, in a rather squalid district known as "Little Wapping," and close to the little wooden bridge, is an antique public-house known as "The Doves," which was formerly one of the regular "coffee-houses," whither the citizens who came from town used to resort and drink their coffee. In one of the upper rooms Thomson is

fashioned air, while the innumerable boats and watermen supply animation. The old houses have an important and pretentious air, showing that they were at one time in high fashion. There is the Upper and the Lower Mall. So lately as 1800 there was a house standing in the



CHURCH STREET, CHISWICK

said to have written his "Winter." There are lime trees in the garden. In the Mall lived Arthur Murphy, the lively dramatist, and Mrs. Billington, the songstress, memorable as having sung in the first performance of the *Messiah* at Dublin.

In one of the farthest houses lived De Loutherbourg, Garrick's scene-painter, and also Stanfield, an Academician, whose "easel pictures" instinctively take the shape and arrangement of scenes. In his latter days De Loutherbourg was seized with a religious frenzy, and gave out that he could cure diseases by touch. Thousands used to assemble round his house to be "healed." In Queen Street, facing the newly-restored church on the road which leads towards the Suspension Bridge, there lingers on a respectable and substantial old

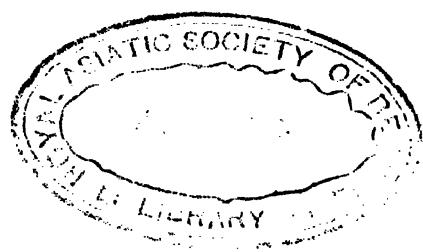


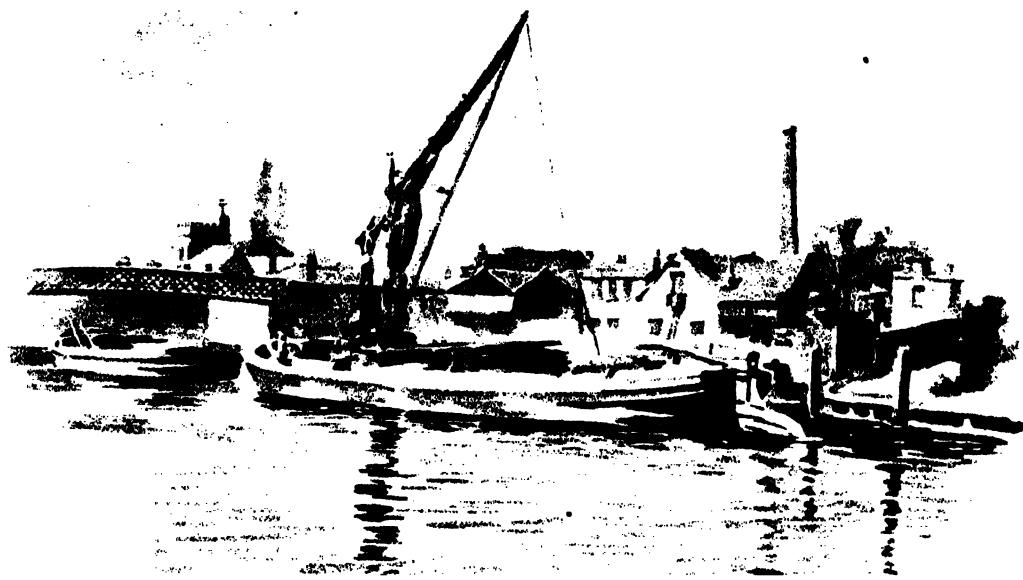
CHISWICK FERRY

house which has seen "better days." This was erst Butterwick House, the residence of Lord Mulgrave, who flourished in the beginning of the seventeenth century and did some doughty deeds. It was divided into two houses, and became a home of the Impey family, to which Sir



ACTON





AT BRENTFORD

Elijah, known in connection with Warren Hastings, belonged. Leading to the sylvan commons from Hammersmith Bridge is a pretty road, very straight, lined with pleasing villas, and known as Castelnau. Close by are the great reservoirs of a great water company.

Chiswick offers a never-failing attraction, from its tranquil sequestered tone, its genuine rural and old-world look. When we consider its close proximity to the stirring Broadway, and the lines of tramway which almost skirt it, it seems astonishing how it has escaped invasion so long. But there is a caprice in these things. Like Kew and Hammersmith and Mortlake, it has its pleasing Mall by the river. Few are aware that in London there is a river Mall, by Inigo Jones's York Gate, so winsome and picturesque that it has been painted by Canaletti.

Following the road from Hammersmith, we pass by an effective old

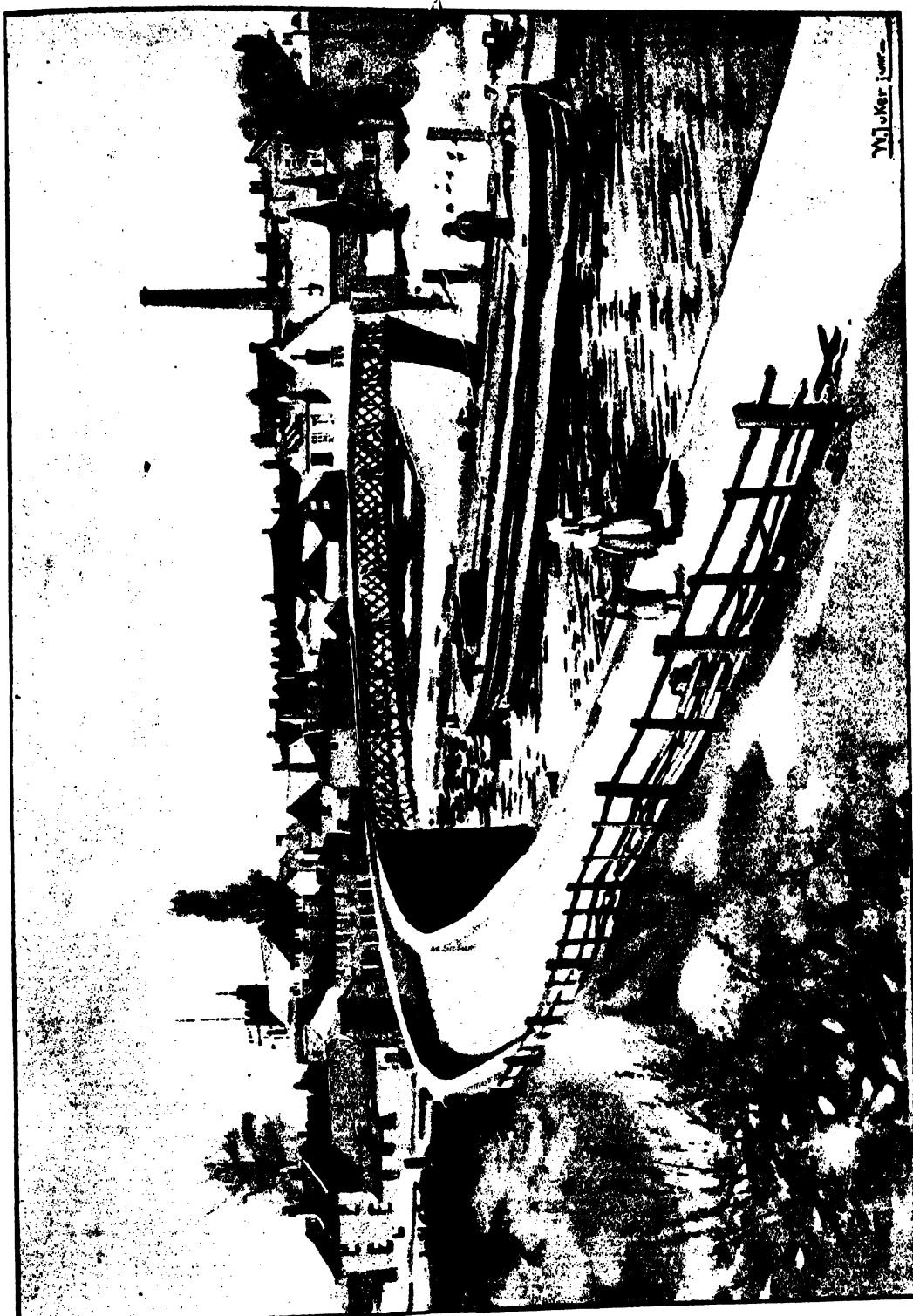
inn or two of truly rustic or roadside pattern, oddly surviving amidst the regular town associations that encompass it. We come to Turnham Green, associated with Goldsmith's celebrated blunder.

On the right, behind the railway embankment, is the curious modern colony or settlement known as Bedford Park. Many years ago Mr. Norman Shaw here laid out a suburban town—streets of pseudo-antique 'houses of red brick, with tiled roofs and white woodwork. As it is well furnished with trees and gardens, the effect is pleasing, if a little theatrical; but the houses seem slight and falling into decay. In the centre is a would-be antique inn, "The Tabard." A short way off lies Acton, not many years ago a tranquil rural district, with its "Priory" surrounded by good old trees, and having

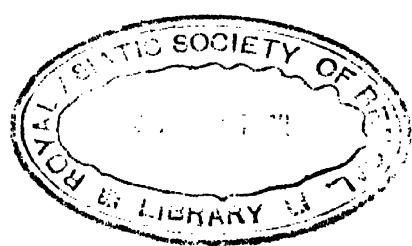


THE RIVER BRENT

its green lanes. It is now mostly built over. At Turnham Green we turn off from the high-road to Chiswick, and find ourselves in a sylvan lane which leads by Chiswick House to the little village or town. This pretty road was laid out by the late Duke of Devonshire, but already



PRENTFORD

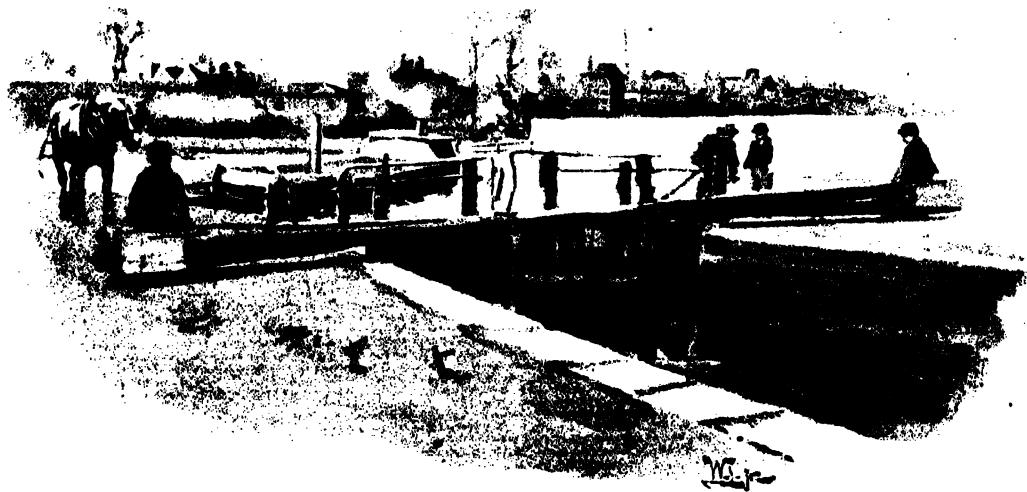


seems an old one. The trees have grown prodigiously. It leads straight to Chiswick House—one of the Duke's seats—an elegant, classical building, with gardens which were supervised by Sir Joseph Paxton. His skill and practice in the planning of great greenhouses furnished him with the design for the Exhibition of 1851, which was in fact a mammoth greenhouse. One of the "hobbies" of cultured noblemen used to be the designing of their own mansions, and Lord Burlington planned his house in Piccadilly, of which a portion still remains, as well as the Assembly Rooms at York; and also this Chiswick House which was built on the model of one of Palladio's palaces at Vicenza, a classic temple with a stately portico and terraces and an imposing dome. It is stored with antique statues and memorials. The gateway, however, is the work of Inigo Jones, and was transported from the old Beaufort House at Chelsea, being a present from Sir Hans Sloane when he levelled that mansion. Here died Charles Fox in 1806, a few months after the death of his great rival, which took place not far away. This almost simultaneous death, and in about the same district, of two such illustrious



AT BRENTFORD BRIDGE

personages, is unique in political history. Close by will be noted a pretentious mansion with a lofty imposing portico, formerly the house of Fox's father, the first Lord Holland. It has a stately air. A little farther on we can see behind a high wall Hogarth's house, which for half-a-century has been given over to ruin and desolation, a rank



THE LOCK AT BRENTFORD

garden in front. Fortunately it has been purchased by a gentleman who is now busy restoring it. Lamb's friend, Carey, at one time lived in it. Pursuing the road to the left, we come to the little tranquil settlement of Chiswick itself, and are rejoiced by the sight of a fine old brick mansion, thrown back from the road, with a sort of square in front, flanked by smaller houses. This is Boston House, recently a boarding school for young ladies, and now a "Refuge" or Institution. It was probably the one in which Becky Sharp was educated. A fine



COTTAGES AT STRAND-ON-THE-GREEN

one of the houses lived Pope's family, and here the poet wrote portions of his *Iliad*. A few years ago the church was a venerable picturesque structure, but it has been "restored" in a rather fresh "spick-and-span" style. In the village is a strikingly artistic roadside inn or "public," "The Burlington Arms," which few painters pass without transferring to their sketch-book. Half-an-hour could be spent with entertainment among the tombs in the graveyard and in the church. At every step we come on some interesting or significant name. Here lie Pope's father; Holland and De Loutherbourg, Garrick's actor and scene-painter; Lord Macartney, Ambassador to China; and, above all, Hogarth, with the inscription partly Garrick's, partly Johnson's. Johnson, it will be recollected, is described as amending the verses dramatically enough

expanses of old-fashioned garden is attached, and over the ancient brick wall fine sepulchral-looking cedars can be seen. Pursuing our way to the river, we see on the right a short terrace of old houses, with some gnarled pollarded trees in front. These have a peculiar interest, for in



KEW GREEN

while mechanically "stirring his tea." And fine lines they are. Four remarkable ladies lie buried here, though unrecorded by monument or inscription; to wit, Cromwell's two daughters, with the Duchess of Cleveland and Countess of Ranelagh, both Hampton Court "beauties." Ugo Foscolo was interred here, but his remains, like those of Paoli, were removed to his own country. Rousseau lived at Chiswick during most of his stay in England. All these are interesting memories.

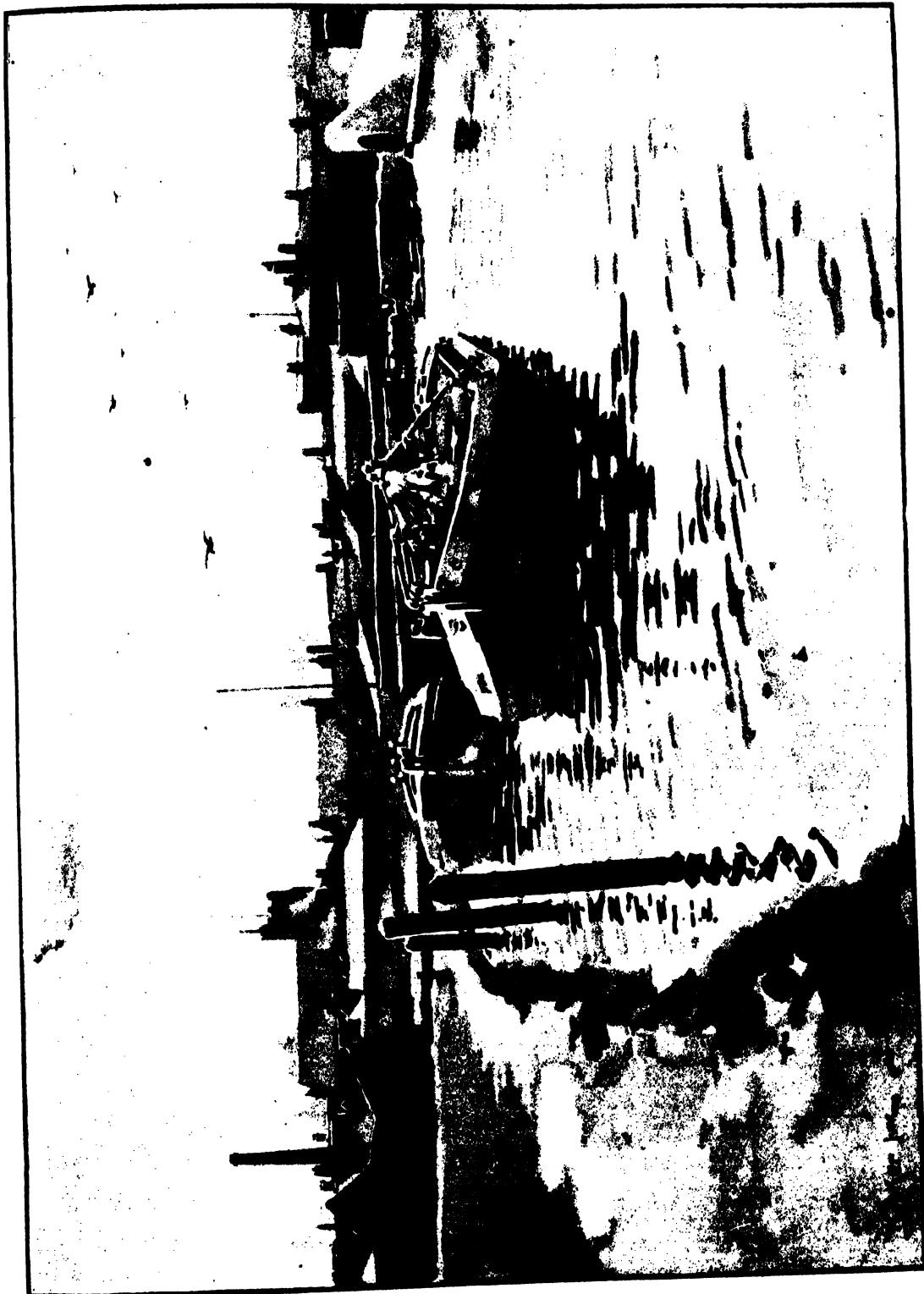
We pass by Mortlake with its Mall, old-fashioned, though not antique; and, following the winding road, path almost, from the river, come to the striking old village church, all overgrown, which calls up

the ghosts of Dr. Dee and Queen Elizabeth, who seems to have been perpetually visiting the suburbs.

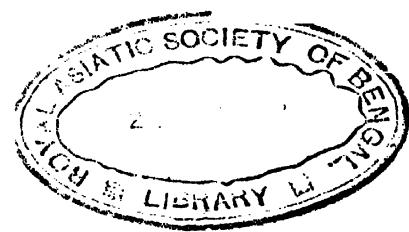
In some memoirs of fifty years ago we meet stray allusions "to the pictures on the Kew Gardens walls." This seemed puzzling and mysterious. I at last discovered that the whole wall had been covered for a mile and a half with pictures of English battleships each about six feet long, with the correct name and number of guns: they were seven or eight hundred in number. This extraordinary performance was the work of a disabled sailor, and the wonder is not



"STRAND-ON-THE-GREEN"



RIVER BRENT AND CANAL AT BRENTFORD



only how he accomplished, but how he was allowed to accomplish it. He was, surely, the pioneer of our pavement artists.

An odd contrast to the pastoral serenity of Kew is offered by Strand-on-the-Green, and the ungainly looking Brentford with its uninviting streets and shops. It always suggests to the Boswellian Johnson's rough reply to Adam Smith, who was boasting of some town in Scotland, "Have you seen Brentford?" Close by it there are some ancestral places, notably Boston House, a goodly old edifice of ripe brick, with effective gables, its lawn gently descending to the river. Within are seen fine carved chimneypieces and elaborate ceilings. But the interesting note is that it has remained in the possession of the same family for over a couple of centuries. This is perhaps an almost unique existence in the case of an unpretending London suburban mansion. Squalid and uninviting as is Brentford, it is redeemed by the vicinity of the little stream from which it takes its name, the Brent, an engaging river which has meandered up to town from many miles away, and which the tourist has met with in some charmingly rural scenes.



THE RIVER-BANK AT MORTLAKE



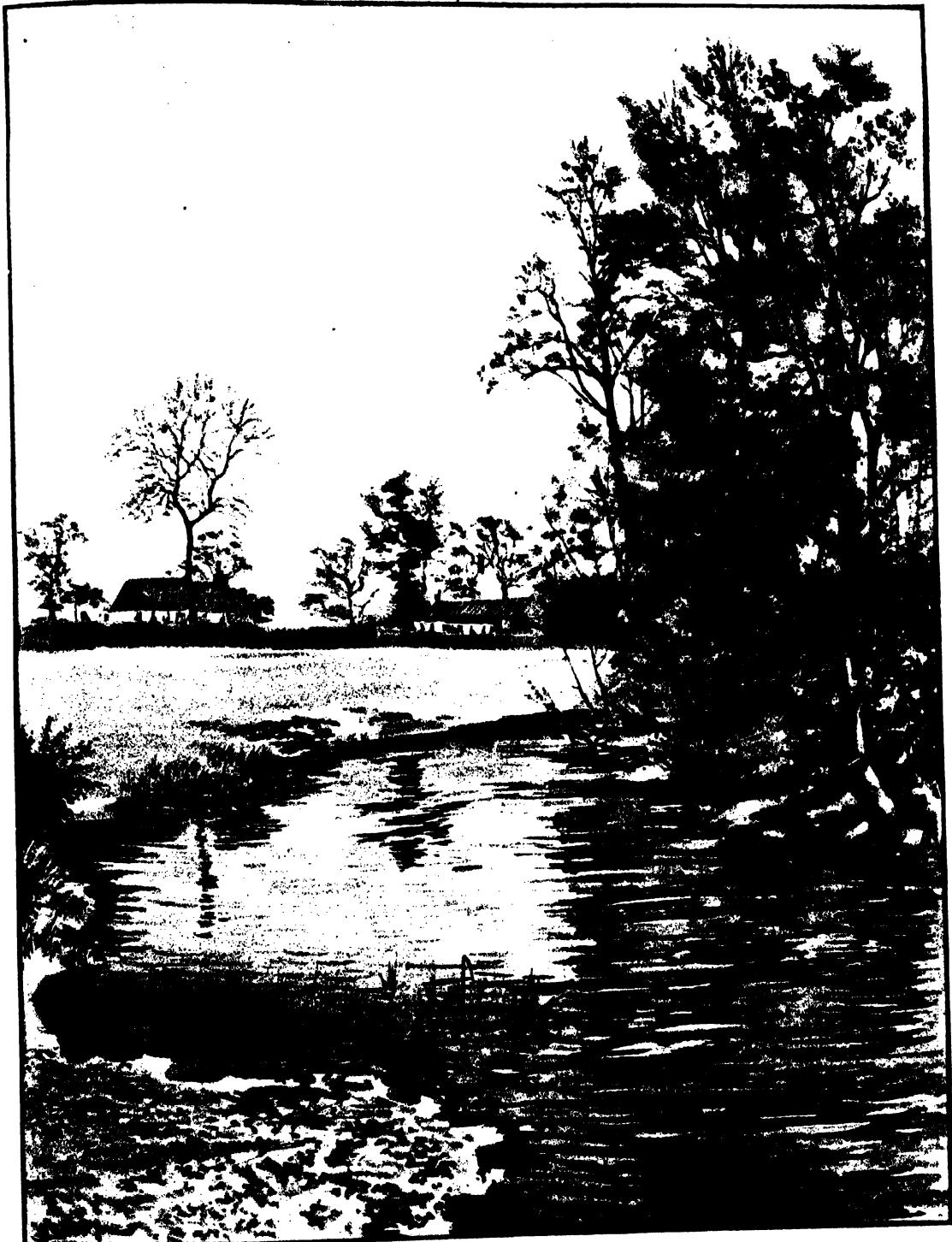
CHURCH WALK, MORTLAKE

The approach to Kew, with the

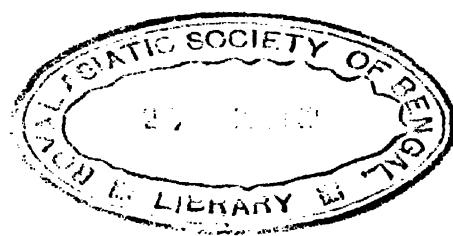


"STRAND-ON-THE-GREEN," KEW BRIDGE IN DISTANCE

first glimpse of its graceful snowy bridge, emerging from the fringe of umbrageous trees that bend over the river, is truly inviting. The graceful structure is now menaced, on utilitarian grounds, "as being insufficient for the traffic." We can ill spare any of the old Thames bridges, and the modern substitutes, like that at Putney, rarely seem to harmonise. The Londoner is always recreated as he stands on the bridge and looks up and down the fair river. Afar off he can see yet another "Mall," and a picturesque island; the approaching steamer, with innumerable boats clustered together; while above the bridge the luxuriant bending trees seem to grow out of the water, and almost to touch it with their spreading boughs. The "Green" still wears its old-fashioned air. It might be in some cathedral town, spite of the tea-houses and the "trippers" who literally swarm over the grass. The tramcars which are constantly crossing it lend an animation; the



THE BRENT NEAR TWYFORD



houses encircling it are antique, cosy, and sound ; all save the gloomy palace close to the gardens, with its grimly austere portico and rusted walls. It recalls the distracting days of the old king's madness, when the roads were alive with the carriages of the Lord Chancellor, "the Prince," and the numerous physicians, all posting down from town to inspect and report. The church on the green is not unpleasing though modernised, and has also its memories, such as the stately Court attendance of a Sunday. Here, too, we find the tomb of Gainsborough, one of the most interesting and original of our painters ; and, being lovers of Miss Burney's *Diary*, we must stop to linger over the headstone of a faithful retainer of the good Queen Charlotte, Mrs. Thielkley, her "dresser," who is often mentioned in the *Diary* with awe.

Two routes lead to Richmond,—one by the road, the other by the river. Than the latter no promenade more agreeable could be found. The river here has a softness and pastoral tone that are most inviting ; the meadows adjoining are rich, and gay pleasure boats are continually flitting by. For a long stretch the gardens of



THE MILL AND LOCK, ISLEWORTH



HIGH STREET, MORTLAKE



CHURCH STREET, ISLEWORTH

Here is the rural-looking "Swan" Inn, and the good old picturesque church tower adds to the attraction. There are straggling streets, and old tiled roofs of Indian red, with a mill and lock, always a picturesque element.

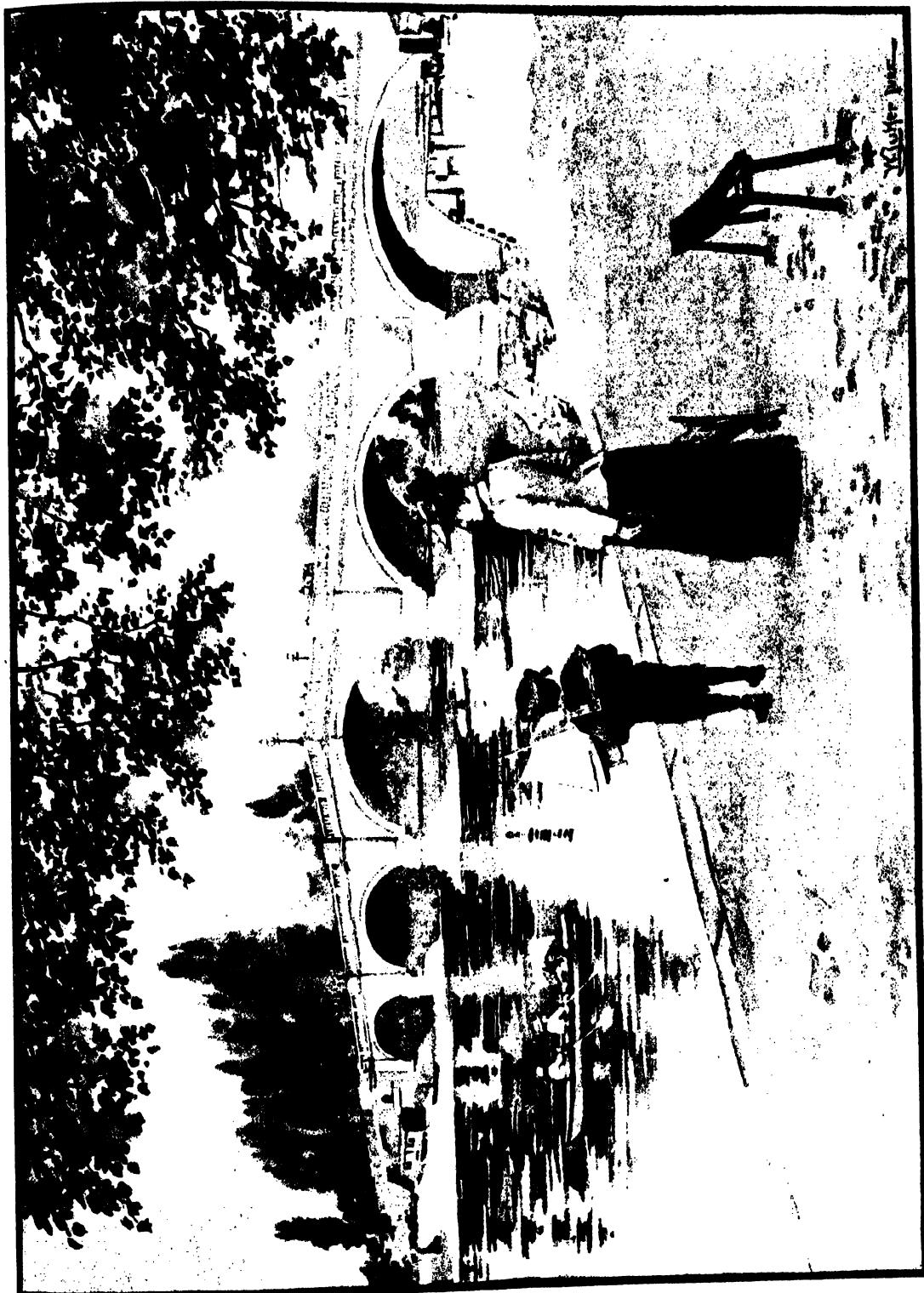
There are a few ancestral mansions of great interest, and great state also, within an easy walk of London. In the metropolis itself, since the destruction of Northumberland House, there is little left of interest in this way. Northumberland House, with its vast courtyard and beautiful gardens stretching down to the river, is now forgotten. It was an interesting specimen of the nobleman's "hotel." It had its history too. Devonshire House, Lansdowne House, Grosvenor House, exhaust the list of these London resi-

Kew Palace accompany us, · an open gate here and there inviting entrance.

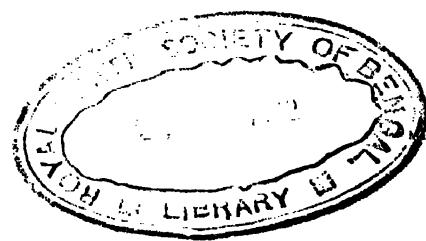
By and by we come to Isleworth Ferry, second only to that of Twickenham in interest. The little town or village creeps down to the edge of a strand, and suggests one of the little rusted towns we see near Rotterdam, quite Dutch in fashion.



"SWAN INN," ISLEWORTH



RONALD FRITHIE





ROAD FROM THE TOWN WHARF, ISLEWORTH

combined in the happiest style. The centre is joined to its wings by fine colonnades, and has its "fayre" gardens, and ornamental waters crossed by a bridge. It takes us far back to the days of Sir Thomas Gresham, of Royal Exchange memory, who formed the park and built the mansion so long ago as 1577. It, of course, received the inevitable visit of Queen Elizabeth, and there is the pleasant legend of a wall being set up or pulled down—it is not agreed which—in the course of a night to gratify Her Majesty. In 1713 it passed into the hands of the Childs, another great city family, and towards the end of last century, as the old house was much in need of repair, an ambitious restoration was carried out under the direction of one of the Adam brothers. The house was sumptuously enriched with paintings, mosaics, statuary, and

dences, which are all modern structures. But within a mile or so of Brentford is a striking house, picturesque in its traditions and associations, Osterley House, the seat of the Jersey family. This brilliant and stately mansion is built of cheery brick and stone, in which the work of different eras has been



STREAM AT ISLEWORTH



SKETCHES FROM THE RIVER, ISLEWORTH

seen from the river. Hither the old Lion of Charing Cross, now almost forgotten by Londoners, has been transported. This spacious ducal palace offers a stately front; it has noble chambers, libraries, etc., the ceilings and pilasters decorated by the brothers Adam in their own special "bridecake" manner, but presenting marvels of stucco work. Its gardens are stored with every variety of curious trees, of home and foreign growth, and brought from all countries. It is curious to find such handsome residences so close to town.

The magnificence of the English *seigneur* in the last century is well illustrated by the courtly

tapestries. There was a noble stair, the ceiling of which displayed a painting by Rubens. The walls were painted by Zucchi; the tapestries were Gobelins. It was reported that the kitchen gardens alone entailed an outlay of some £1500 a year. The library was the joy and envy of all bibliomaniacs, and at the "Osterley sale," which took place some years ago, was dispersed a rare collection of tomes and bindings, though the prices brought were disappointing.

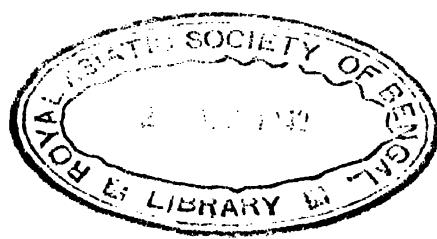
Close by Isleworth, we come to another of these ancestral homes—Sion or Syon House, an imposing pile as

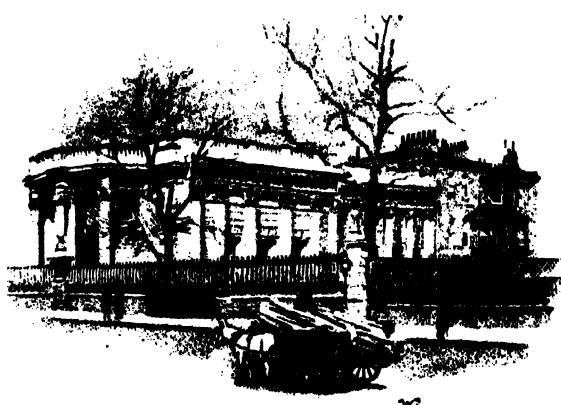


SION OR SYON HOUSE, NEAR ISLEWORTH



RICHMOND PARK, SHOWING THE KINGSTON ROAD ON THE FAR HILL.





GROSVENOR HOUSE FROM PARK LANE

Ham House at Ham—all richly stored with paintings, curios, and art treasures of all kinds. Some of these ambitious builders entailed ruin on their fortunes, owing to the gigantic character of their efforts. We have seen the warnings of this kind furnished by Canons, the palace of the Duke of Chandos; and by Wanstead, the magnificent building erected by the crazed Wellesley Pole; and in our day by Kensington House, erected and all but completed by Baron Grant. It is curious that these three grand suburban mansions, each of which engulfed enormous sums, to the ruin of their owners, were all destined to be pulled to pieces and levelled to the ground! The staircase of Canons came to Chesterfield House; that of Baron Grant's mansion to a millionaire's in Carlton Terrace, to whom it seemed to bring ill luck, for before he had time to ascend the costly stair he himself was ruined.

splendours of this edifice, unpretending as it looks from the river. Here are twelve superb columns of *verde-antique* found in the Tiber, and purchased in the last century by the noble owner for one thousand pounds apiece. Besides Syon House, there is its neighbour Osterley just described, Chiswick House, Caen Wood at Hampstead, and



OSTERLEY HOUSE, OSTERLEY PARK

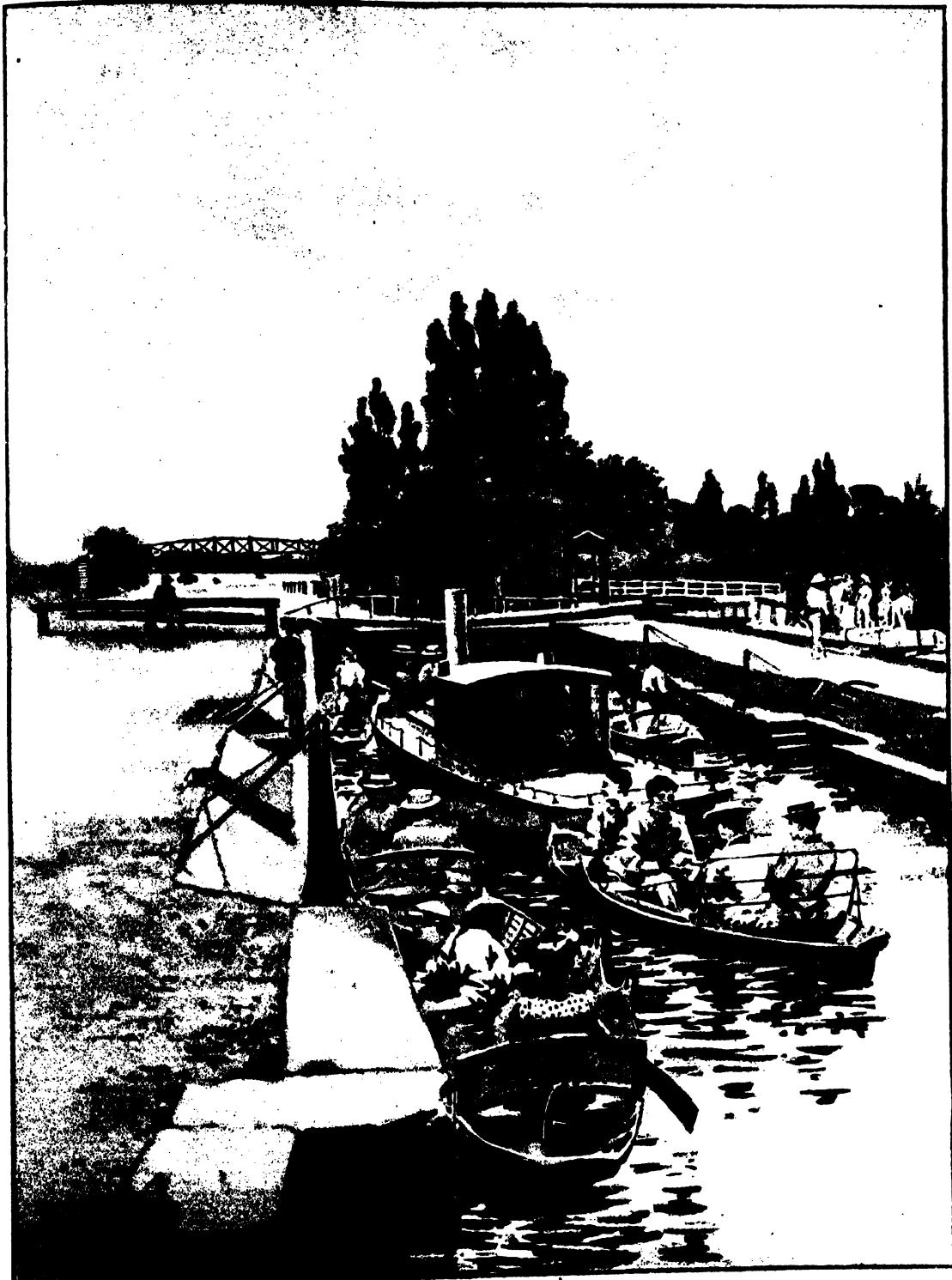
It is curious, too, after only a few minutes' walk, and the crossing of the river at the tranquil Twickenham Ferry, to come to yet another signorial palace, perhaps the most interesting and picturesque of the three. This is the old Ham House, the mansion of the Earls of Dysart. For the stranger or wanderer I could fancy no more curious surprise than thus coming of a sudden upon this antique and gloomy pile. There it stands confronting us, upon the very edge of the river, protected by its sunken fence or ditch, its walls, and some ghostly-looking trees. The grim old house recedes, and forms a sort of open court with wings attached. Here is the tall gate of ancient twisted iron, but which hangs purposeless between its piers, never to be opened, and no one enters thereby—just like that great avenue at Cobham, the seat of the Darnleys, across which a chain is always drawn, and which is never used save for a funeral. You may walk round and round its enclosure before you find the entrance. An interesting, suggestive old mansion it is, but forlorn-looking to a



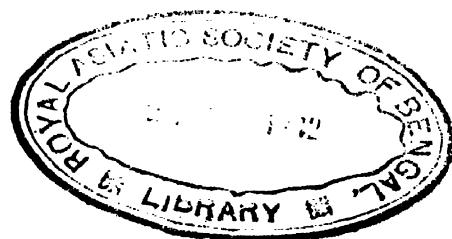
BY TWICKENHAM FERRY



HAM COMMON



TEDDINGTON LOCK



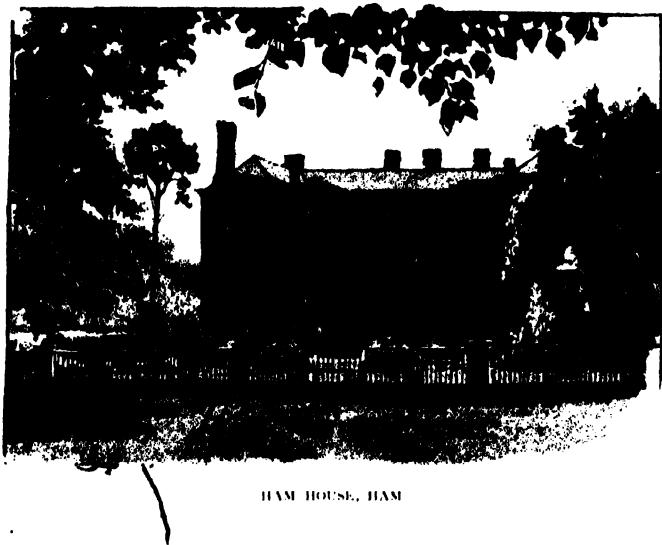
degree, silent and undisturbed. It has an air of comfort and of being inhabited, yet no one is seen in the windows or flitting across the court. In ovals over the windows are busts of Roman emperors, who gaze at us in a stern, stolid way, as they have gazed on so many for some two hundred years, it may be. This

brings to mind Elia's sorrowful description of Blakesware. Within it is richly stored with portraits, paintings, tapestries, china, and all the fine *garniture* so necessary to set off its old chambers. More richly stored is it with traditions, such as that of the "Cabal"; while many an interesting historical figure has trodden the boards of its low-ceilinged chambers. A restoration has just been completed, and with a judicious reserve, by Mr. Bodley, at a cost of some £60,000.

The approach to Richmond after passing the railway bridge has a charm which, hackneyed as it is, has yet ever an unfailing novelty. A soft air of tranquillity and repose greets us, with a pleasing mixture of river and footpaths and villas of an old pattern, and high sloping banks richly clothed



HAM POND



HAM HOUSE, HAM

with trees. Through the arches of the bridge we can see the windings of the river as it pursues its course on to Twickenham. Here is Asgill House, a sound and pleasing old structure; and a little beyond a most

striking old red-brick mansion with a stately stone portico, and velvet lawn in front, smooth and level as a bowling green, with a sepulchral old cedar tree. The "Castle Inn," with its grounds and terraces overhanging the river, has been recently swept away. At the bridge there seems a perpetual tone of lotus-eating; the innumerable boats are laid up peacefully, the watermen lounging about.

Richmond town still happily keeps its old-fashioned air. The High Street has something foreign about it, and the sense of old royal traditions

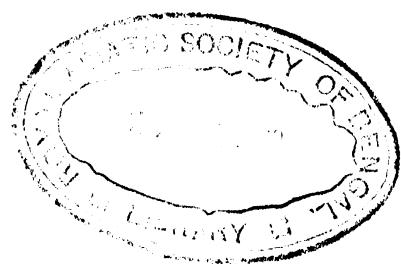


THE THAMES, FROM TERRACE GARDENS, RICHMOND

still seems to animate it. The Green has a character of its own, and the old houses at its edge struggle and retire backwards or lurk in corners. The range known as "Maid-of-Honour Row" is a bright, gay, and gallant bit of Queen Anne building, with antique gates, bits of garden, and carved doorways. The staring white sashes of this style



HAMPTON COURT BRIDGE



lend a festive air. We miss, however, the old Richmond Theatre, with its interesting traditions ; it was a very picturesque old structure somewhat suggesting Sadler's Wells, with the manager's house attached.

At a corner we come to the old palace, passing under its towered archway into an enclosure, where, turned into a dwelling-house, stand the old buildings. The palace has been judiciously restored and is in very sound condition. There is an air of quiet seclusion over this retreat which is inviting. Proceeding up the famed Richmond Hill, we pass many an old mansion, some standing in demesnes, and behind stretches of wall, over which projects the significant board which invites the cupidity of the speculative builder. By and by rows of cheap terraces will line these fair descents to the river. The view from Richmond Hill has been sung by poets, but there is often a sense of disappointment felt owing to the capriciousness of the scene. So varied and changing are its charms, that it requires residence to appreciate it. Almost as attractive is the beautiful terrace, well stored with



MAID OF HONOR, DW, RICHMOND GREEN



TERRACE WALK, RICHMOND

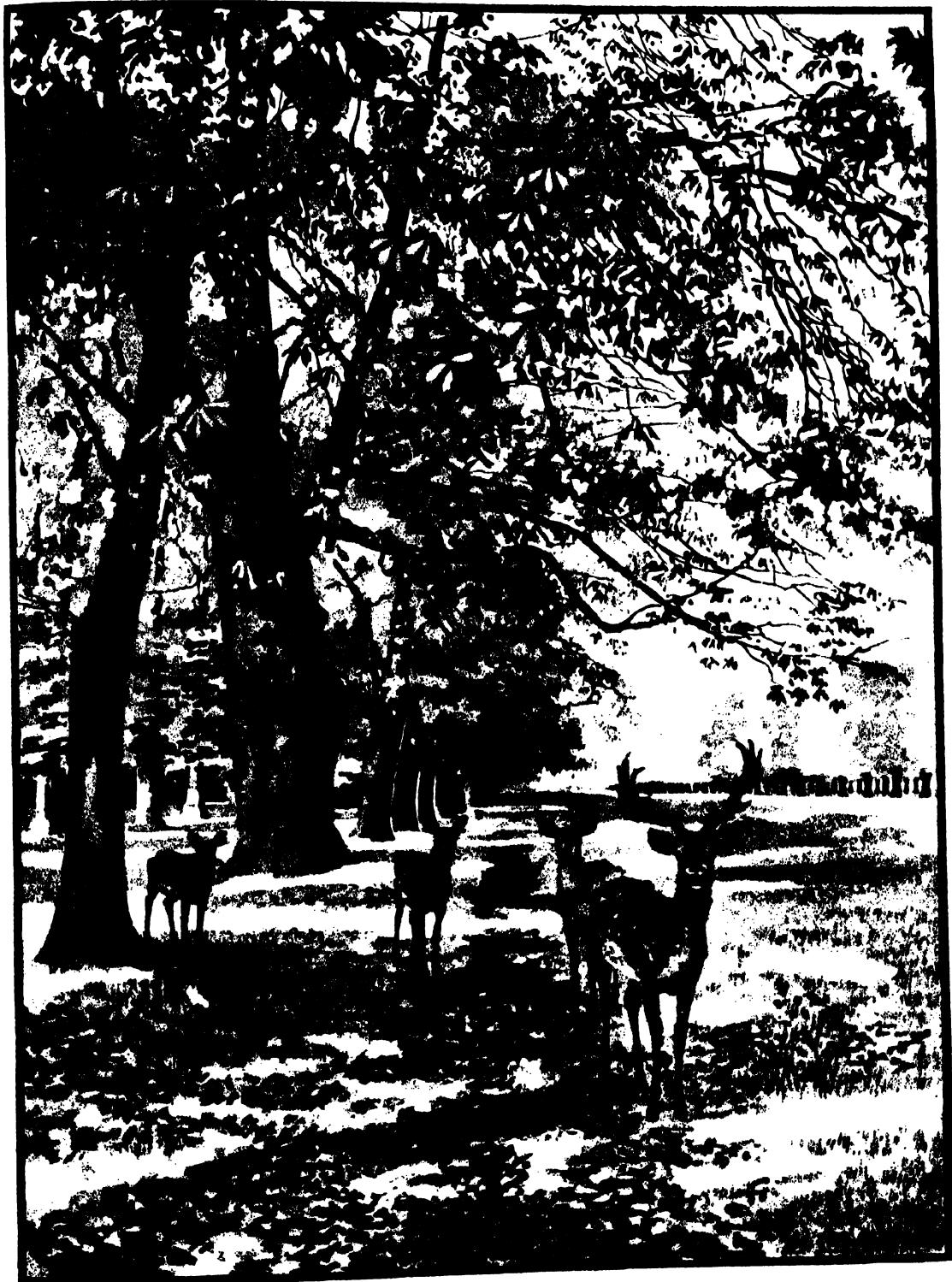
fine old trees, from which it is surveyed. A little below to the right is the garden, lately the Duke of Buccleuch's, one of the best specimens of a public garden that we have, as it is without the trim stiffness of modern enclosures; and being on a slope stretching down to the river, and adorned with venerable trees, presents an original air. And what pedestrian is not familiar with the pleasant walk across the park to Kingston, so in-
of variety? How hackneyed is this of the river, Ferry—the boat over: it is no has inspired both cian. The walk on itself is charming— is the cheerful red with its old-fash- sloping gardens. on the river a sort of anima- are more thickly and trees, and

formal and full pleasant and untrquil portion by Twickenham drifting so lazily wonder that it poet and musi- to the little town ly varied. There of Orleans House, ioned terraces and A little farther quickens up into fringed with villas some finely pre-

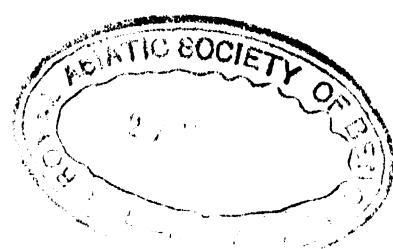


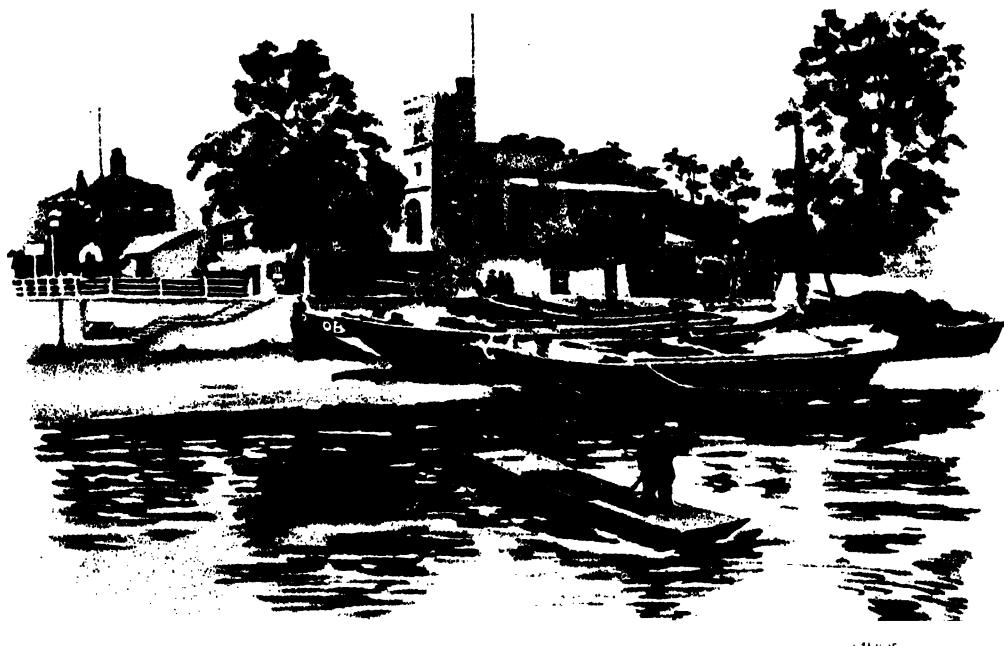
BELL LANE, TWICKENHAM

served old Queen Anne mansions. Such is Twickenham by the river, invitingly picturesque, always busy with its pleasure boats and boating houses. It has a different air from the snoozing tranquillity of Twickenham town, to which quaint little shaded avenues, such as Bell Lanc, lead. The old houses with their tiled roofs look almost as they were a century and a half ago. The church, giving half on the river, half on the road, where it stands at the corner, has a cheerful air, and we may turn into the enclosure to read the tablet to the memory of



BUSHEY PARK





TWICKENHAM FROM THE RIVER

Mrs. Clive, the actress, affixed to the wall. Farther on, outside the town, we pass the so-called "Pope's Villa," the original having been levelled by a certain Lady Howe, a person of Hunnish or Gothic tastes, and there is also the "Little Strawberry Hill," Mrs. Clive's house, now scarcely recognised and sadly decayed.

From Twickenham on to Teddington there is a delightful, varied walk, passing by Strawberry Hill. Near Twickenham Common we may notice a magnificent gate-entrance, with noble piers and carved vases, but without any mansion of corresponding pretension. We may speculate over this survival and the reason for it, but it is not so uncommon. It is melancholy to pass by the once-famous and much-talked-of Strawberry Hill. It has now an air of shabby dilapidation; the old Gothic tricks and devices of its brilliant owner are now revealed like old scenery viewed by daylight. It offers a good specimen of that amateur

"Gothic" once found in every castle and villa, with its tower, spire, "bays," all in right lath and plaster. Within are all the little rooms and corners which were the delight of the rather feminine owner, and which he had christened "the green closet," the "blue bedchamber," the "plaid bedroom," the "round drawing-room," with other fantastical names. Its traditions were carried on by the well-known Countess of Waldegrave, who gathered round her here, for a generation almost, a number of notable persons, Hayward and his "set," so that the party at Strawberry Hill became one of the fashionable events. The story of the chatelaine, her rise, and her four marriages, was in itself a romance. Now she has passed away, and all with her; the place is now tenanted by a wealthy family. As was to be expected, some of the "fayre" meads attached have been laid out for villas, and we can now read on the boards, "The Strawberry Hill Estate."

Hackneyed and even "cockneyfied" as are the associations of the old Palace of Hampton Court, it is always novel and offers an inviting charm. On some fine summer Sunday it is hard to resist its pleasantly festive air, and the jocund crowds wandering through its vast chambers and gardens. It is more interesting and varied than the much-vaunted

Palace of Versailles, with its long insipid façade and in-terminable corridors.

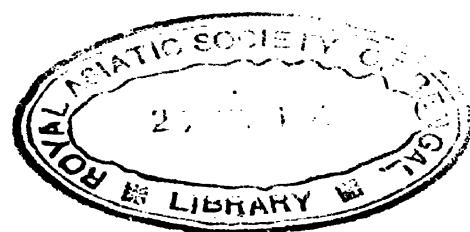
As you come from the railway across the ugly bridge, you catch the first glimpse of the glassy river, winding away on its course, the gay pleasure boats floating lazily by; or we note some lady "poling" it so



HEATH ROAD, TWICKENHAM



RICHMOND PARK, AND KINGSTON IN THE DISTANCE



gracefully in her punt, the trees imparting a sylvan air, the old, dull, red battlements and pinnacles of the palace clustered beyond. The sight is, indeed, a pleasant recreative one. From whatever side we arrive there is entertainment. During the walk through Bushey Park we have admired the old chestnut avenue, though not caring much for the hackneyed advertisement which assures us that "the chestnuts are in full bloom." We welcome the handsome stately "round pond" with its fountain in the centre; thence enter the fair gardens, and can always admire the gay welcome of the rubicund palace, with its cheerful white sashes and stone dressings. Brick has never seemed so stately or dignified. How noble, too, and imposing are the courts, with their collegiate towers, notably the old Wolsey portion, sound but "crusted," and which harmonises fairly well with Wren's colonnades and oval windows. At every turn there is something to interest, something to admire.

Welcome Kingston, with the ever-welcome glistening river playing occasionally hide-and-seek with the promenader--its graceful snowy bridge and adjacent Bushey Park leading pleasantly on to Hampton Court. The old town itself has a very quaint old-fashioned air from the number of inns with antique names. It has also its own special traditions of kings and queens. It boasts a leaden statue of Queen Anne, and a strange uncouth-looking stone in the centre of the Market Place, which claims to be "the one on which the Saxon kings were always



BY THE RIVER

crowned." We find with surprise that the little place has its mayor, corporation, maces, muniments, and the rest. There is a fine old church, picturesquely placed, and well stored with monuments, so that the explorer, wandering through its sleepy precincts, must feel a sort of interest mingled with respect.

Teddington is almost enchanting from its tranquil old-world repose—nothing more original could be desired as a combination of ancient houses, almshouses, winding river, luxuriant green, the lock, and the venerable, truly picturesque church at the river's edge, in which sleeps "Mistress Woffington." Of a sunshiny day the charm of the place is extraordinary.

And here we must end our suburban promenades. It will be seen that nothing in the way of antiquarian or topographical lore has been attempted. The object of these unpretending rambles has been simply to attract, or pique the curiosity of the explorer, and to show what beauties still are left, in spite of the general impression that our suburbs have been built over. However imperfectly the task may have been performed, the writer may ask credit for a certain share of enthusiasm, industry, and appreciation.



OLD PALACE YARD, RICHMOND



VIEW FROM GRANGEWOOD

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APPERSON, GEORGE L., 11 Park Road, Wimbledon.

APPLETON, D. F., New York, U.S.A.

APPLETON, SARAH HONNOR, Poulton Lodge, Sneyd Park, Bristol.

APPLETON, WILLIAM, 518 Hornsey Road, N.

ARCHBUTT, THOMAS W., 11 Angell Road, Brixton, S.W.

ARDEN, PERCY, 5 Fig Tree Court, Temple, E.C.

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ARMSWORTH, HENRY JOSEPH, 39 Musjid Road, Falcon Road, Battersea, S.W.

ARNISON, GEORGE N., 5 Tavistock Place, Sunderland.

ARNOLD, DR. E. C., 31 Park Road, Forest Hill, S.E.

ARROWSMITH, H. CREASY, Beethoven House, Hampstead, N.W.

ARROWSMITH, J. W., Quay Street, Bristol.

ARTHUR, H. M., Hatfield House, Lemna Road, Leytonstone.

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ATKINS, THOMAS, Audley Lodge, Stanley Road, Wimbledon.

ATKINSON, ARTHUR M., 11 Dean Road, Willesden Park, N.W.

ATTERIDGE, JOHN J., M.D., 240 Cornwall Road, Notting Hill, W.

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BIRD, ARTHUR, 6 Bedford Row, W.C.

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BOSWELL, PETER, Linden Cottage, 109 Clapham Road, S.W.

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BOULTON, GODFREY, 21A Northampton Square, E.C.

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BRADBERRY, C. F., 39 Wynnstan Gardens, Kensington, W.

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BRADLEY, W. G., Post Office, Lower Sydenham, S.E.

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BRAGG, RICHARD J., 27 Woodberry Grove, Finsbury Park, N.

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CADDEL, JOHN S., 1 King Street, Gravesend.

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CAIRD, EDWARD B., 777 Commercial Road, E.

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CAMPBELL, THOMAS NELSON, Uxbridge House, 91 High Street, Barnet, Herts.

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